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INFUSE THE FLAVOURS OF NORTH AFRICA
MOROCCAN TURKEY
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MOVING ON
RUSSELL BRAND ALREADY ENJOYING THE SINGLE LIFE
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CALGARY metro®
Thursday, February 16, 2012
www.metronews.ca
News worth sharing.

Mom. Speaks

▶ Kelly Wallace, mother of murdered Calgary teen Brittney McInnes, recalls some of the things she loved most about her daughter at the Calgary Courts Centre on Wednesday.

KATIE TURNER/METRO

Remembering Brittney McInnes

Family and friends shared their fondest memories of Calgary murder victim Brittney McInnes on Wednesday just before her killer, stepfather Bradley Rietze, was handed a life sentence. Rietze admitted earlier in the week to raping and strangling the 17-year-old. Story, page 3.

Cost per 311 call jumps 12.6% in 2011

▶ In 2010, there were approximately 1.19 million calls placed to 311 ▶ A total of 1.22 million calls were made to 311 in 2011

KATIE TURNER
@METRONEWS.CA

Providing information to Calgarians is costing the city a premium, with a double-digit cost jump last year.

Between 2010 and 2011, several factors led the cost per call to 311 to increase by 12.6 per cent — from $3.97 to $4.47 — said Terry Pearce, manager of citizen service with 311.

Pearce pointed out that the upgrade to the Calgary.ca website last summer diverted many of their informational calls while they continued to receive more complex calls, which take longer. On average, the length of the call increased by four per cent.

Staff are also making about 3.5 per cent more in 2011 than they did in 2010, said Pearce.

In addition, Pearce said the call volume spikes in the summer, so additional staff are brought on. This year, they had a higher turnover of summer staff, resulting in full-time staff logging more overtime work.

Ald. Andre Chabot said with the new website helping to divert some calls, he would have hoped to see a lower cost per call.

"What's the point in investing in the Internet and providing greater accessibility to city services and city information if it doesn't net out a positive result — i.e., fewer 311 calls," he said. "Something has got to give. You can't give more to both departments without improved efficiencies."

Pearce points out, however, that 311 hasn't added full-time staff in two years and likely won't be adding more until 2014, when two more employees are budgeted.

"When you consider wages, when you consider some calls are 30 minutes, some are six minutes ... it's reasonable," he said. "Do we want people to go to different channels to bring that (cost) down? Yes, always."

"What's the point in investing in the Internet and providing greater accessibility to city services and city information if it doesn't net out a positive result — i.e., fewer 311 calls."
ALD. ANDRE CHABOT

Facts on 311

- **Staff.** 311 has a staff of 56 during the winter and 72 during the summer months.
- **Emails.** About 17,000 emails were also managed by 311 in 2011.
- **Non-stop.** 311 operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

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Families of victim, killer cope together

Distraught family members of both murdered teen Brittney McInnes and her killer stepfather appeared together outside of a Calgary courtroom after a life sentence was handed down Wednesday.

Bradley Rietze was sentenced to an automatic life term with no chance of parole for 25 years.

"There's no book, there's no way to try to come to grips with the kind of tragedy that occurred.... You don't know how you're ever going to deal with that," said brother Gary Rietze, who has not spoken with his sibling since the horrific crime in January 2009.

But in their grief, family members from both sides continue to work together to move on. "We continue to be family," Gary Rietze said. "We try to stand by each other."

McInnes' mother Kelly Wallace agreed, but conceded a tension between the families does exist and will be tough to overcome. "It's very hard to have that same relationship where you get together for birthday parties and Christmas and Easter," she said.

Family members expressed some relief that Rietze opted to plead guilty on Monday. ● JEREMY NOLAIS

KATIE TURNER/METRO

▶ Kelly Wallace, the mother of murder victim Brittney McInnes, inset, and younger sister Katie McInnes speak to the media following sentencing in a Calgary court on Wednesday.

▶ Brittney McInnes

Murdered teen shared dreams before death

◐ Victim-impact statements shed light on insightful youngster ◐ Stepfather sentenced to life in prison

JEREMY NOLAIS
@METRONEWS.CA

Brittney McInnes had big dreams.

In the days prior to her body — which had been stuffed in a box spring inside her Canyon Meadows' home — being discovered by family, the 17-year-old shared some of her aspirations with her mother, Kelly Wallace.

"The next time I saw her was in a coffin I picked out for her," Wallace told a courtroom Wednesday. "I was told not to touch her too much as she had been wearing heavy makeup to cover the bruises. Imagine that — don't touch your own daughter."

McInnes was raped and strangled with the belt from her housecoat by stepfather Bradley Rietze in January 2009. He then hid the teenager's body and attempted to cover his crime by pretending to receive text messages from McInnes indicating she was sleeping over at a friend's house. Family members discovered her body the next day.

Rietze's trial was scheduled to begin Monday, but he ignored the advice of defence counsel and reversed his plea to guilty. Justice Rosemary Nation formally sentenced the 47-year-old to life in prison Wednesday with no chance of parole for 25 years.

Rietze appeared solemn during court proceedings, wiping away the occasional tear. He also addressed both his and McInnes' family members. "My heart sinks in my chest when I think about what I have done," he said. "The next part of my life is only a small part of what I deserve."

Aftermath

- In an agreed statement of facts, Bradley Rietze offers no reason for why he raped and murdered stepdaughter Brittney McInnes.
- After McInnes' death, family came together to create the SuperBritt Scholarship Fund in her honour. More information can be found at legacyfoundation.ca.

1 news

Computers and tech gadgets in the classroom make for good PR, but a new report suggests they're not creating better learners. Scan the code for the story.

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COURTESY OF THE CALGARY BOARD OF EDUCATION

▶ It seems Alberta kindergarten students like these will not necessarily be required to attend a full day of classes in the years ahead.

Full-day-kindergarten pledge won't be met

Lack of facility space a challenge: Education minister

JEREMY NOLAIS
@METRONEWS.CA

8 The education minister said an eight per cent boost in the recently released budget aimed at early childhood intervention could be put towards full-day kindergarten programs.

Every one of Alberta's littlest learners will be provided the option of full-day kindergarten someday, but the education minister says it's unlikely the program will be made mandatory.

Thomas Lukaszuk said full-day programs will be phased in across the province starting in fall 2013, but facility and staffing issues could get in the way of it being made mandatory provincewide.

"Some of the schools are bursting at the seams as is," he said. "Imagine adding one extra grade level."

The minister's boss, Premier Alison Redford, had pledged to make full-day kindergarten mandatory across the province within a year of being elected in October. Speculation has suggested a $200-million price tag attached to the implementation of the program may have created a hurdle too high to clear.

Wildrose education critic Rob Anderson wasn't surprised to learn of the change in plans for new students.

"She (Redford) made a ton of promises, some of which she had no intention of keeping," he said.

Wildrose has never supported mandatory full-day kindergarten, but would also offer it as an option to parents, Anderson said.

The Calgary Board of Education provides full-day kindergarten at 16 schools, and the Calgary Catholic School District offers the same program at 22 of its institutions.

Dandy Civitarese's son recently took part in one such program and she was pleased with his growth.

"I had my reservations and so did my husband ... but the school really encouraged the full day," she said. "He did really well with it and had a lot of fun."

Alberta is one of just a few Canadian provinces that have not adopted mandatory full-day kindergarten for all students.

Health Canada shuts down local supplement provider

Canada's governing health body isn't sold on a "miracle mineral solution," ordering a local website offering the supplement to cease and desist.

But the operator of themmsstore.com said Wednesday he believes he's the victim of intervention by major drug companies afraid that holistic solutions to everyday health problems will cut into profits.

"It's widely used all over the world in vast quantities," said Stan, who declined to provide his last name. "It works on a wide variety of ailments."

CONTRIBUTED

▶ A Calgary website is no longer able to sell sodium chlorite products like these.

The product being offered is known as sodium chlorite, and Stanley said it's used by everyone from common-cold sufferers to cancer patients.

In its ruling made available on Wednesday, Health Canada said three people suffered adverse reactions from ingesting the substance, including one deemed to be life-threatening.

"There are no therapeutic products containing sodium chlorite authorized for oral consumption by humans in Canada," read an advisory of the ruling. ● JEREMY NOLAIS

Sodium chlorite

- Sodium chlorite is typically used to disinfect hard surfaces.
- The operator of themmsstore.com says that, over the past four years, he has sold sodium chlorite both locally and to international customers from as far away as England.
- Health Canada says adverse reactions to the substance can include everything from abdominal pain and vomiting to kidney failure.
- Anyone seeking more information about sodium chlorite is asked to call Health Canada's public enquiries department toll-free at 1-866-225-0709.

Jewel store busted for drugs

Police allege a southeast jewellery shop was offering up more than just diamonds and earrings. During search warrants executed against the shop, located in the 5300 block of 8th Avenue Southeast, a northeast home and a vehicle, police discovered a variety of drugs, included opium, heroin and ecstasy. Randhir Singh, 48, faces a number of charges. ● METRO

Homeowner nearly gets the axle

A Calgary-area man was lucky after tractor-trailer wheels crashed into his home east of Calgary. The tire axle flew off a semi along Highway 24 around 6:15 a.m. Wednesday and smashed into the house, landing in the kitchen. The homeowner, who told reporters he's normally making coffee at that time, had apparently decided to sleep in. ● METRO

Million-dollar-winning ticket about to expire

Some lucky ticketholder is sitting on a million-dollar payday from a Lotto Max Million ticket purchased in Calgary.

But the lucky winner apparently has only one week left to redeem it before forgoing the loot. ● METRO

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Alumnus Paul Campeau represents a new breed of accountant.

Paul Campeau applied to the University of Lethbridge to complete his management degree with a focus on accounting.

Campeau graduated from the U of L in 2004 and began working on his Chartered Accountant (CA) designation while articling at Deloitte & Touche LLP in Edmonton.

Two years later, with a CA designation under his belt, Paul travelled to Bermuda and Amsterdam, gaining valuable work exprience in his field.

When he returned to Alberta, Campeau and his future business partner Will Henderson began laying the groundwork for an opportunity to control their own destinies; their accounting firm, Henderson Campeau LLP.

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Wait times off-target: Province

Alberta will not meet the deadline for emergency-room wait-time targets, Health Minister Fred Horne said on Wednesday.

When they were set back in May 2010, the government said the targets — to treat patients within eight hours of arrival 60 per cent of the time — would be reached this month. But the Misericordia is the only Edmonton-area hospital with shorter wait times.

Liberal Leader Raj Sherman said the Conservatives are taking too long to fix the problem.

"I work every Sunday," said Sherman, an emergency-room doctor. "I spent an hour trying to get a patient into a bed. There wasn't one medical bed available in Edmonton." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Urban gondolas cheap, efficient: Developer

JEREMY NOLAIS
@METRONEWS.CA

Snags in Calgary traffic flow could be solved by transporting some commuters high above the city in urban gondolas, planners heard during a presentation on Tuesday.

Toronto-based Creative Urban Projects told the Alberta Professional Planners Institute that the high-wire form of transport is both cheaper and more efficient than light-rail transit.

"They are good connector systems," said Steven Dale, leader of CUP's Gondola Project. "The advantages are very short wait times between vehicles — 10 to 30 seconds — and they're incredibly quiet and incredibly safe."

1/2 Creative Urban Projects estimates the cost of installing an urban gondola system to be half that of light-rail.

Gondola systems have proved immensely popular in South America, where uneven topography often hampers road development.

Last year, Calgary Transit said it was exploring a gondola system for northwest Calgary that could transport people to high-traffic venues such as the University of Calgary and Alberta Children's Hospital. The cost and benefits are still being weighed, senior planner Jen Malzer said.

WITH FILES FROM KATIE TURNER

Students raise roof on charity doghouses

Each class at Calgary Science School undertakes service-learning project Kids giving to community

KATIE TURNER
@METRONEWS.CA

School projects don't get much more hands-on than this.

Students from the 8.3 class at the Calgary Science School decided to take a unique spin on a school project by collectively building and marketing doghouses for auction and donating the proceeds to the Calgary Humane Society and other organizations.

CSS teacher Louis Cheng said his students decided last fall that they would pursue this idea as part of a mandatory service learning project.

"Some of the students have been absolutely engaged with this project," said Cheng, adding that all the students have different roles, from soliciting donations to videotaping the progress and on to the actual construction of the doghouses.

"I think a lot of what we're doing here is a lot of what's done in industry," he said.

Melanie Dahal, 13, said the students have set a goal to auction each doghouse for $200, but any amount raised for charity would be deemed a success.

"We're supposed to take what we learn … and apply it to the real world and actually give back to our community," she said.

Christy Thompson, spokesperson for the Calgary Humane Society, said her organization is thrilled to hear that the students wanted to support them.

"Any time we can engage our future leaders in an organization like CHS (Calgary Humane Society), we're pretty proud of that."

For updates on the project and a timeline of when the auction will be held, go to the CSS Dog House Sale page on Facebook.

Doggie digs

- **The students have Twitter** and YouTube accounts, as well as a website and Facebook page.
- **Supplies were donated by** Rona, and a carpenter with Borger Construction precut the wood for the students.
- **Construction of the three** doghouses was completed on Tuesday.

KATIE TURNER/METRO

▶ Emily Boyd, left, Charlie Johnson and Melanie Dahal are among a group of Grade 8 students at the Calgary Science School who have built doghouses to auction off for charity.

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AUMA, Griffiths make up — breakfast back on

THE CANADIAN PRESS/FILE

▶ Alberta Municipal Affairs Minister Doug Griffiths has now said he will attend the AUMA breakfast.

Minister says Linda Sloan denied making disparaging comments about the government It's not clear if AUMA head was quoted out of context

The feud is over and relations are looking sunnyside up between the Alberta government and the group that speaks for municipal politicians.

Municipal Affairs Minister Doug Griffiths said in an interview Wednesday that he has patched things up with Linda Sloan, head of the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association.

The Progressive Conservative caucus had planned to boycott an AUMA breakfast meeting Thursday in Edmonton until Sloan retracted the comments and apologized.

Griffiths said they will go after all because Sloan told him late Tuesday night she never made the disparaging comments about the government attributed to her over the weekend in a local newspaper.

Sloan was quoted saying that the government funding plan was corrupted by pork-barrel politics, with money tied not to what you need but who you know amongst the Tories.

"Ms. Sloan indicated to me she never made any such comments," said Griffiths. "I'm not going to get into an argument or discussion about that. I will be informing her shortly that we will be attending the breakfast.

"We're going to proceed to build better communities."

Sloan could not immediately be reached for comment.

Griffiths said it wasn't clear if Sloan told him she was quoted out of context or didn't make any of the comments.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Gun-registry bill passes House

On life-support after Tory win in Commons Senate will pull plug

Federal Tories erupted in cheers Wednesday after finally securing House of Commons approval to scrap the controversial long-gun registry.

The Harper government used its majority to pass the bill by a vote of 159-130, with the support of two maverick New Democrats — John Rafferty and Bruce Hyer.

All other NDP, Liberal, Bloc Québécois and Green MPs voted against it.

"Many of us have waited for this day for a very long time," said Public Safety Minister Vic Toews.

Toews said the registry — created by Jean Chrétien's Liberal government after the massacre of 14 women at Montreal's École Polytechnique in 1989 — is "a billion-dollar boondoggle" that does nothing but penalize law-abiding hunters and farmers.

"It does nothing to help put an end to gun crime, nor has it saved one Canadian life," he argued.

The vote effectively puts the registry on life support. All that remains is for the Senate to pull the plug.

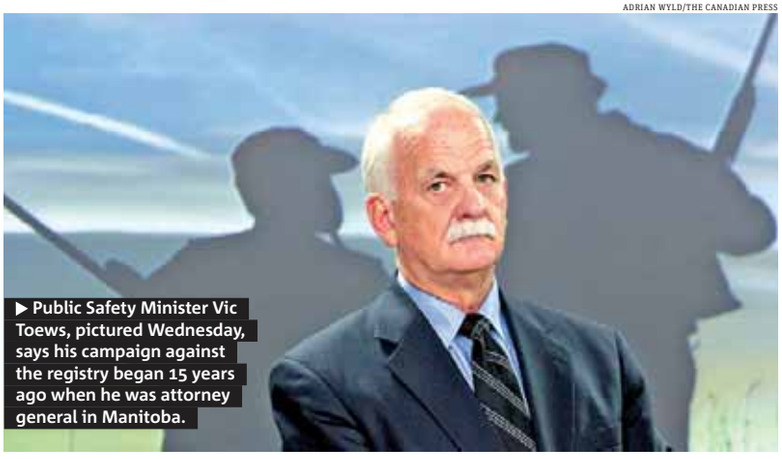
Since the Tories enjoy a commanding majority in the upper chamber as well, the registry's fate is sealed.

Women's groups and victims of gun violence expressed outrage.

Quebec says the moment the bill is enacted, the province will launch court action to prevent registry records from being destroyed.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS



▶ Public Safety Minister Vic Toews, pictured Wednesday, says his campaign against the registry began 15 years ago when he was attorney general in Manitoba.

Trouble in store?

What will be the fate of maverick New Democrats John Rafferty and Bruce Hyer for defying the party's line on the gun registry?

- Interim NDP leader Nycole Turmel said there will be "consequences" for them.
- But it's unclear what more she can do to the pair, who also broke ranks when the registry bill was put to a second reading vote last November.
- At that time, Turmel suspended their travel privileges and banned them from participating in question period, sitting on committees or making public statements.

Battle over mandatory sentences brewing

The Harper government is keeping its powder dry in the face of a court judgment that delivered a broadside to mandatory minimum sentences.

An Ontario Superior Court judge ruled this week that sending a first-time offender to prison for three years for possessing a loaded, illegal gun is "cruel and unusual punishment."

Prime Minister Stephen Harper told the Commons on Tuesday: "I think Canadians believe the courts have not been tough enough in dealing with gun crime."

With mandatory minimum drug and sex sentences awaiting passage by the Senate, the battle is set to begin.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Gasp! He'll walk a tightrope over the Falls

Daredevil Nik Wallenda is eager to walk the walk after getting approval for his plan to cross Niagara Gorge on a tightrope.

The Niagara Parks Commission board gave its thumbs-up on Wednesday, reversing an earlier decision against the stunt.

Wallenda says it brings him one step closer to his dream of walking along a cable, five centimetres in diameter, stretched across the gorge from the United States to Canada.

"To get that green light, I feel like I'm on top of the world," he said.

The board says it now has 45 days to work out details — including a date for the walk — with the man who calls himself "King of the High Wire."

Wallenda, 32, had been hoping for a day in July or August, but the commission is looking at June, before the busy tourist season begins.

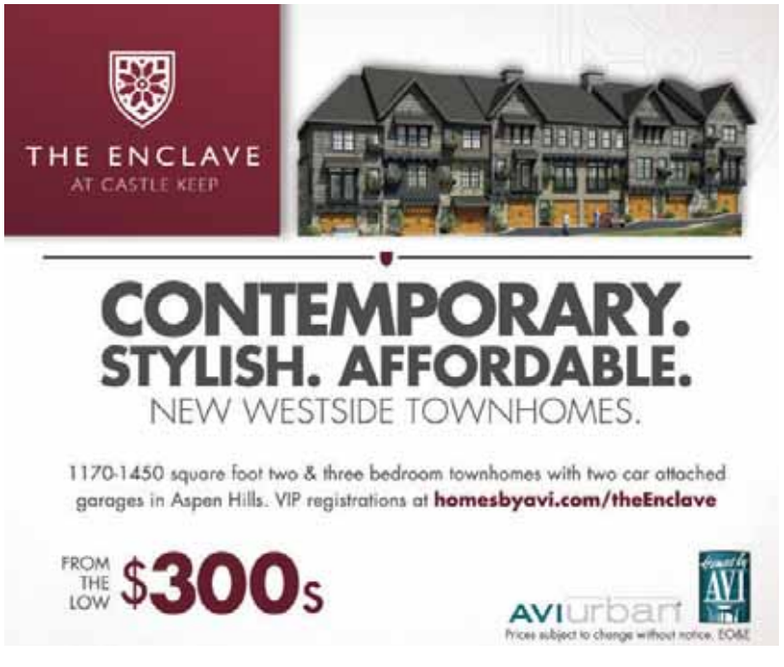
The tightrope walker, who is descended from the famous circus performers The Flying Wallendas, saw his request turned down in December.

New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo signed legislation last year allowing Wallenda to walk over the famed gorge.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

High-wire cash

- A study has suggested that live television coverage of the event could help generate a $120-million shot in the arm to Niagara's economy.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REGIME CHANGE?

Syria's president calls for national vote

MUZAFFAR SALMAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Syrian soldiers stand guard

As Syrian forces stepped up their assault Wednesday on rebellious cities, President Bashar Assad ordered a referendum, set for Feb. 26, on a new constitution that would create a multiparty system in a country that has been ruled by his autocratic family dynasty for 40 years.

Such a change would have been unheard of a year ago, and Assad's regime is touting the new constitution as the centrepiece of reforms aimed at calming Syria's upheaval. But after 11 months of bloodshed, with well over 5,000 dead in the regime's crackdown on protesters and rebels, Assad's opponents say the referendum and reforms are not enough and that the country's strongman must go.

"The people in the street today have demands, and one of these demands is the departure of this regime," said Khalaf Dahowd, a member of the National Coordination Body for Democratic Change in Syria, an umbrella for several opposition groups in Syria and in exile.

The White House also dismissed the referendum. Press secretary Jay Carney called the move "laughable" in light of ongoing brutality by the Syrian military, and said it "makes a mockery" of the uprising.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Honduran prison fire kills hundreds

Six people drowned seeking refuge in a water tank inside prison ◐ President suspends top penal officials

FERNANDO ANTONIO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ A woman weeps outside Comayagua prison, where a fire broke out early Wednesday.

A fire started by an inmate tore through an overcrowded prison in Honduras, burning and suffocating screaming men in their locked cells as rescuers desperately searched for keys. Officials confirmed 358 dead Wednesday, making it the world's deadliest prison fire in a century.

The local governor, who was once a prison employee, told reporters that an inmate called her moments before the blaze broke out and screamed: "I will set this place on fire and we are all going to die!"

Comayagua Gov. Paola Castro said she called the Red Cross and fire brigade immediately after receiving the call late Tuesday night. But firefighters said they were kept outside for half an hour by guards who fired their guns in the air, thinking they had a riot or a breakout on their hands.

Officials have long had little control over conditions inside many Honduran prisons, where inmates have largely unfettered access to cellphones and other contraband.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

By the numbers

- **Honduras has** one of the world's highest rates of violent crime.
- **Its overcrowded** and dilapidated prisons have been hit by a string of deadly riots and fires in recent years.
- **According to government statistics,** the Comayagua prison was built in the 1940s for 400 people but holds more than 800 prisoners watched over by about 100 guards.
- **Officials** confirmed that 115 bodies had been sent to the morgue in the capital of Tegucigalpa and that 358 people died in the fire.

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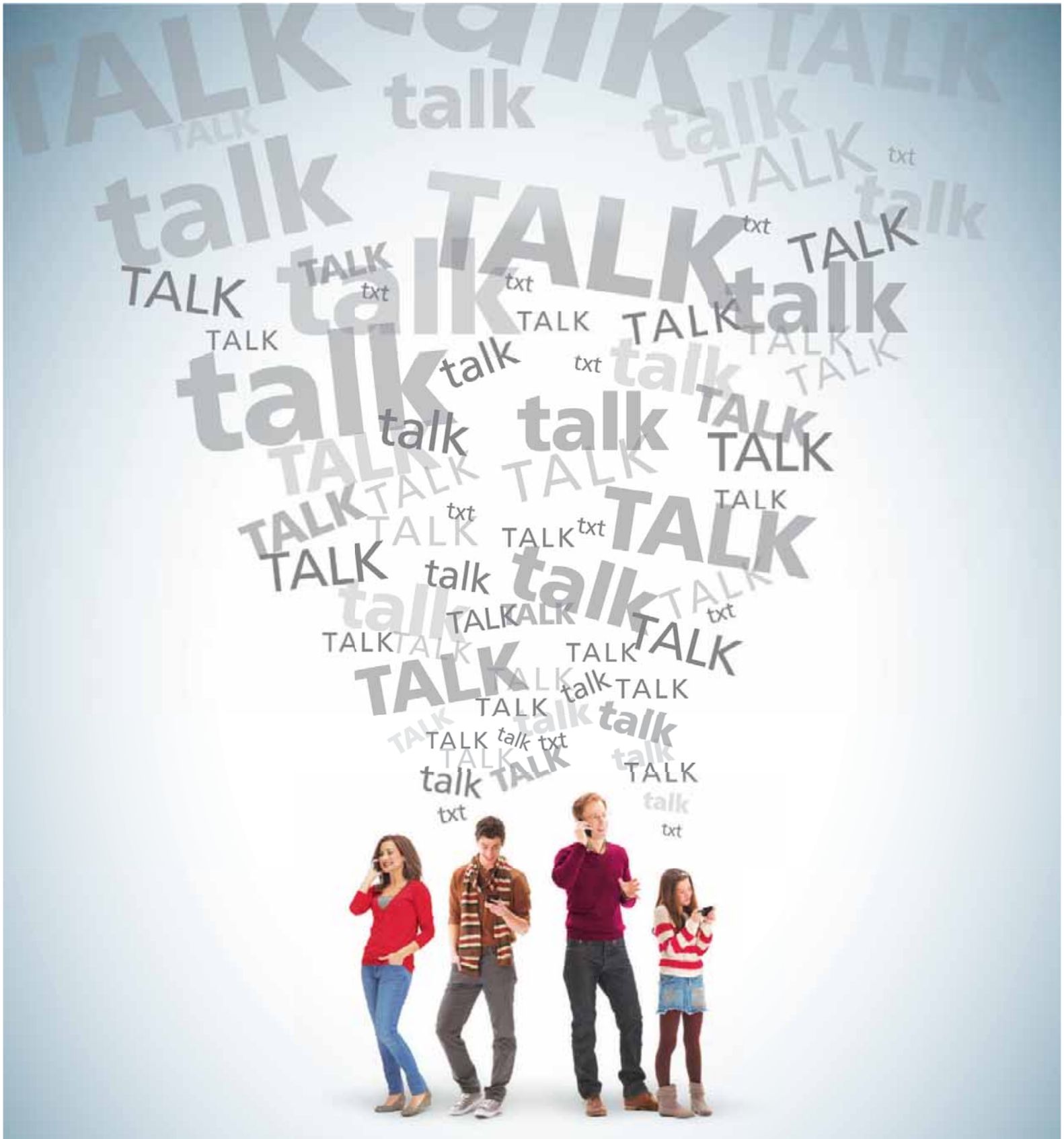

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Deep-freeze death toll rises in Europe

Farmers concerned about their livestock are bringing them into homes Towns remain isolated

More than 650 people have died during a record-breaking cold snap in Eastern Europe, authorities said Wednesday, as officials in the Czech Republic blamed two massive car crashes on blinding snow.

Since the end of January, the region has been pummelled by the deep freeze, which has brought the heaviest blizzards in recent memory. Tens of thousands have been trapped in often-freezing homes and villages by walls of snow and unpassable roads, and officials have struggled to reach out to the vulnerable with emergency food airlifts.

Authorities in Russia and Ukraine alone reported Wednesday that more than 300 people have died in the bitter cold.

About 100 damaged cars blocked a major highway in the Czech Republic connecting the capital, Prague, with the eastern part of the country and Slovakia. Seven people were injured in two separate accidents, authorities said, warning it could be hours before the mangled vehicles are cleared.

Some 40 cars crashed before midday Wednesday during a heavy snowstorm 300 kilometres east of Prague, injuring two people. Dozens of vehicles, including a bus, were involved in a separate crash southeast of Prague, which injured five, according to Czech public CT24 television.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CTK, LUBOS PAVLICEK/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ A driver makes slow progress during a heavy snowfall near Veznice, Czech Republic, on Wednesday.

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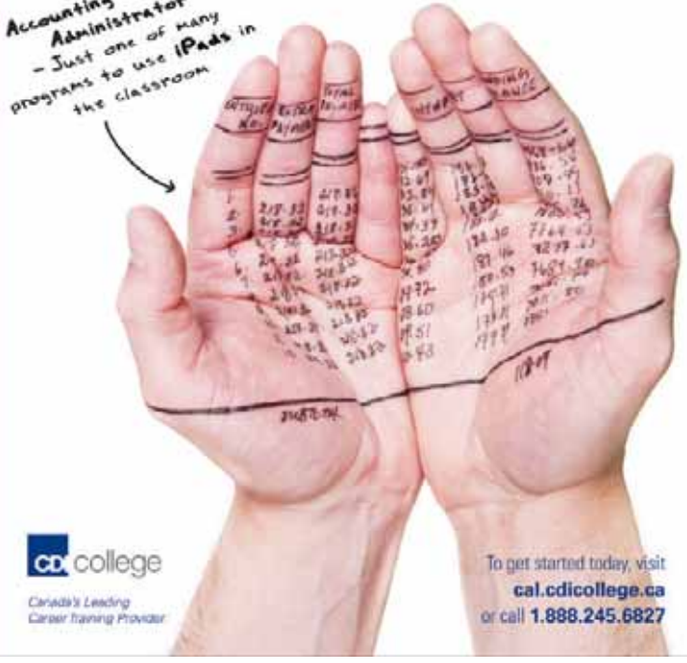

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A memorial to 71 dead cows?

PETA wants animals killed in crash to be honoured

An animal-rights group wants to set up a roadside memorial sign in western Manitoba for cows killed in a highway crash.

PETA — People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals — is asking the Manitoba government for permission to place a sign along Highway 5 near Carberry, about 170 kilometres west of Winnipeg, where 71 cows died after a semi collided with a train on Jan. 31.

The sign would be a way to draw attention to the group's concerns over how animals are treated before they reach the slaughterhouse, PETA said.

"A memorial sign will serve as a tribute to those dozens of cows who had been severely injured and killed on their way to slaughter."
EMILY LAVENDER

"Painful mutilations, transport for often hundreds of kilometres in Canada's freezing winters and scorching hot summers and even prolonged suffering at the slaughterhouse are just the tip of the iceberg," PETA spokesperson Emily Lavender said from Ottawa.

The group, however, will likely face an uphill battle.

Manitoba has laid out a formal process for approval of such signs that usually involves relatives of the victims.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Obama. Target

▶ Archbishop Timothy Dolan, pictured in Rome on Tuesday, is a cardinal-designate.

GREGORIO BORGIA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cleric vows birth-control battle

A top U.S. cleric — Archbishop of New York Timothy Dolan — has vowed legislative and court challenges to President Barack Obama's compromise on exempting religiously affiliated employers from paying directly for birth control for their workers. Dolan said that while Obama's about-face initially sparked glimmers of hope in the Catholic Church, it ended up being a "hill of beans."

Italy seeks five-year jail term

LIONEL CIRONNEAU/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Berlusconi

Italian prosecutors have demanded a five-year prison sentence for former premier Silvio Berlusconi in his trial on corruption charges.

Prosecutor Fabio De Pasquale on Wednesday urged the court to find Berlusconi guilty of having paid a British lawyer $600,000 to lie in trials involving charges of tax evasion and false accounting.

The court is racing toward a verdict before the charges expire due to the statute of limitations. De Pasquale calculated that would happen by mid-July.

This is one of several cases pending against Berlusconi, including a trial on charges of having paid for sex with an underage prostitute.

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Iran announces advances in nukes

Iran said Wednesday that it has achieved two major advances in its program to master production of nuclear fuel, a defiant move in response to increasingly tough Western sanctions over its controversial nuclear program.

Iranian officials also indicated that they were on the verge of imposing an oil embargo on European countries to retaliate for the sanctions, but denied reports earlier in the day that six nations had already been cut off.

Iranian officials say an immediate cut-off will hit European nations before they can line up new suppliers.

Iran's tough tone comes as tensions mount dramatically with Israel and the United States over its nuclear program, which the West says is aimed at producing weapons technology.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Thai police say bomb suspects targeted Israelis

Thailand's police chief says the Iranians who were arrested after accidentally setting off explosives at their rented home in Bangkok were plotting to attack Israeli diplomats, bolstering claims by Israel that the group was part of an Iranian-backed terror network.

An Iranian foreign ministry spokesman called the allegations baseless, saying Israel was trying to fuel conspiracy theories.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Japanese nuclear safety standards come under fire

Critics say country has missed chances to make improvements since earthquake Citizens worried

KOJI SASAHARA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Protesters march in Tokyo on Saturday with "No Nukes" signs to demand Japan abandon atomic power. Worries are growing about the restarting of reactors idled after last March's earthquake and tsunami.

Japan's nuclear safety chief said Wednesday the country's regulations are flawed, outdated and below global standards, and he apologized for their failure when a tsunami crippled one plant last year.

Haruki Madarame admitted Japanese safety requirements for tsunami and power losses were too loose and many officials have looked the other way and tried to avoid changes.

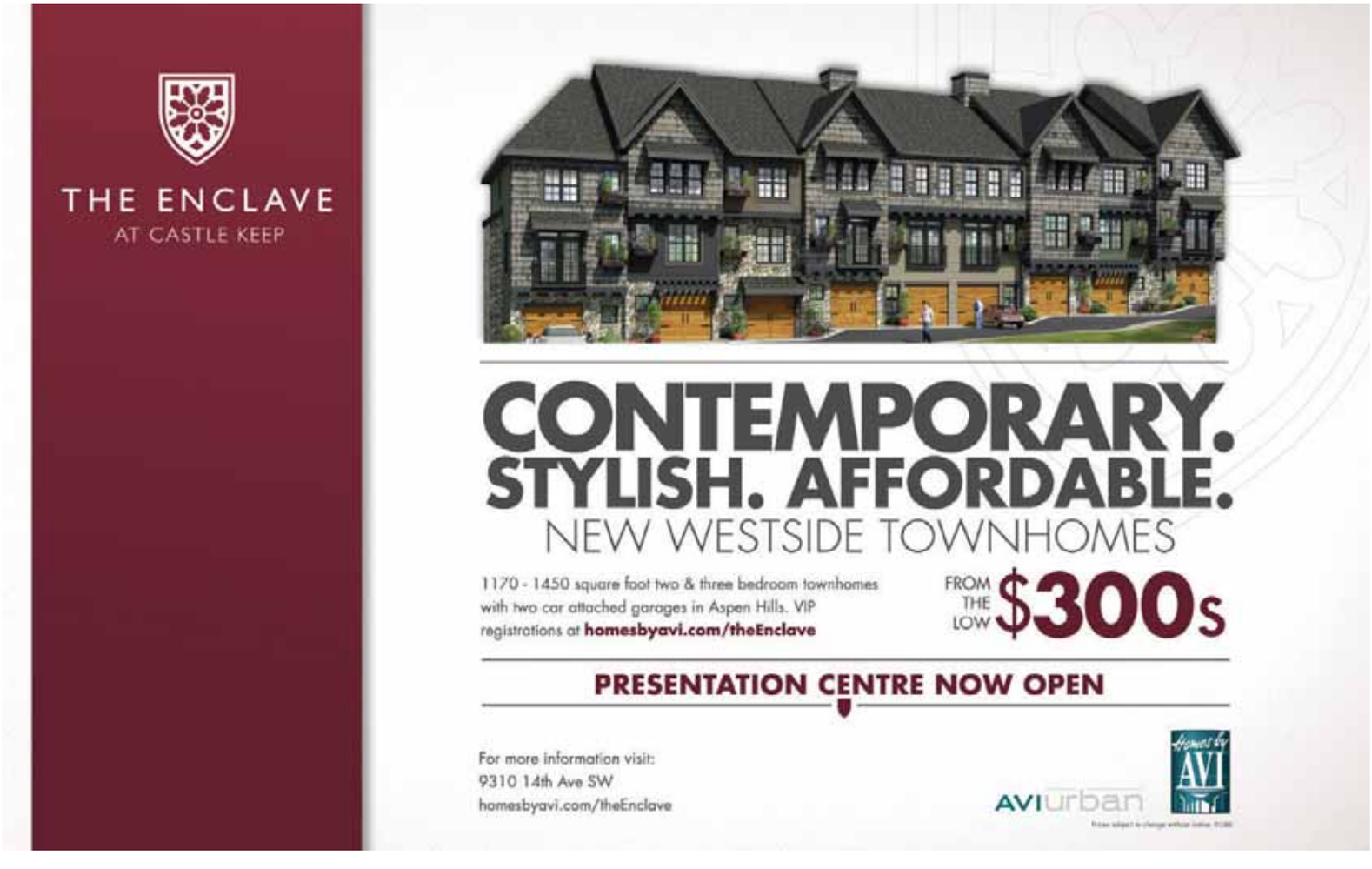
"I must admit that the nuclear safety guidelines that we have issued until now have various flaws," he said. "We've even said that we don't need to consider risks for massive tsunamis and lengthy power outages."

Madarame was speaking at a parliament-sponsored inquiry investigating the meltdowns at the Fukushima Dai-ichi last year.

The March 11 earthquake and tsunami knocked out power and cooling systems at the plant. More than 100,000 people around the plant relocated due to fears of radiation impact on their health. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Preparedness

- Japan's Nuclear and Industrial Safety Agency has issued emergency safety guidelines requiring nuclear plants nationwide to improve readiness for disasters.
- Only three of Japan's 54 reactors are operating now after authorities ordered all reactors shut down to undergo special tests.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Shopify takes innovative approach to online retail

Ottawa company's e-stores doubled their merchandise sales in a year

CONTRIBUTED

▶ Harley Finkelstein, chief platform officer of the Ottawa-based e-commerce company Shopify.

When web shoppers buy a plush Angry Birds toy, a Foo Fighters or LMFAO T-shirt, or something from Encyclopedia Britannica, it helps fuel a small but growing Ottawa company that once sold snowboards before getting into the e-store business.

That company is Shopify, which this week was named by Fast Company magazine as one of the 10 most innovative retail businesses in the world.

Co-founder Tobias Lutke created Shopify after realizing back in 2005 just how difficult and expensive it was to launch a web business. After figuring it would cost at least $100,000 to get his snowboard store online, Lutke decided the company ought to design its own e-commerce software.

He quickly realized there was a much better business in helping other entrepreneurs sell their wares online.

"Today, almost six years later, we have over 20,000 active stores selling one or more products every month in more than 80 countries," said Harley Finkelstein, Shopify's chief platform officer. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Cisco challenges Skype takeover in EU court

Networking company Cisco said Wednesday that it is challenging Microsoft's $8.5-billion US takeover of Skype at the European Union's top court to ensure Microsoft won't block other video-conferencing services.

Microsoft completed the deal in October shortly after the European Commission, the EU's competition regulator, cleared the takeover. Microsoft hopes that owning Skype will allow it to better compete with other tech giants including Apple or Google.

But for Cisco Systems, the world's largest maker of computer networking equipment, the Skype deal creates a serious challenger to its video-conferencing systems.

"Cisco does not oppose the merger, but believes the European Commission should have placed conditions that would ensure greater standards-based interoperability," Marthin De Beer, the head of Cisco's video-conferencing division, wrote in a blog post.

Video-conferencing equipment is a relatively small part of Cisco's overall sales, but it's growing rapidly. Cisco's latest major acquisition was of Tandberg, a Norwegian maker of video-conferencing equipment. Cisco spent $3.4 billion for the company in 2010.

Microsoft said it was confident it would prevail in an appeal. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Target Canada partners with Starbucks

Discount retailer Target Corp. is partnering with Starbucks to bring coffee shops into its new Canadian stores.

The American chain picked the Seattle-based coffee company to open in the majority of its up to 135 Target stores, it said Wednesday.

The agreement extends the 12-year relationship between Target and Starbucks in the United States.

Starbucks has already struck numerous partnerships with retailers in Canada, including Indigo Books and Music and some grocery chains.

Target plans to open its first Canadian stores in 2013. THE CANADIAN PRESS

GREEK CRISIS

Eurozone doubts persist over bailout plan

PETROS GIANNAKOURIS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Greek Finance Minister Evangelos Venizelos

Greece has made progress convincing the rest of the eurozone that it should get a $170-billion US bailout — but the country's austerity efforts will need much tighter surveillance, the chairman of the eurozone's finance ministers said Wednesday.

During a three-hour conference call between the finance chiefs of the 17 countries that use the euro, the ministers received assurances from Greece that it had found a further $325 million in cuts on top of austerity measures already agreed to.

However, in a sign of the deep distrust that has built up — especially among rich euro nations like Germany, the Netherlands and Finland — Jean-Claude Juncker, the prime minister of Luxembourg who also chairs the finance ministers' meetings, said better surveillance mechanisms had to be set up before new aid could be released. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

January home sales down

Canadian home sales posted their biggest monthly decline in a year and a half in January, suggesting the long-expected market slowdown may finally be on its way.

The Canadian Real Estate Association said Wednesday that sales of existing homes fell 4.5 per cent to a seasonally adjusted 38,294 in January from 40,115 the previous month. It was the first monthly decline since August 2011.

The monthly decline reversed a string of month-over-month increases in the fourth quarter of 2011 and returned sales activity to where it stood at the end of the third quarter, CREA said.

January sales were about even with the five- and 10-year averages for the month. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Market moment

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SURVIVAL OF THE KINDEST

HE SAYS ...

JOHN MAZEROLLE
METRO

If Canada is known for one thing, it's a history of excellent game shows.

That's why the creators of Survivor, which is currently airing its 24th season, decided the 25th anniversary season would be filmed in its most treacherous location ever! Here's the transcript.

SURVIVOR: CANADA!

[A beaver growls. The McKenzie brothers chant.]

Bob and Doug: Koo-loo-koo-koo-koo-koo-koo-koooo!

Host Jeff Probst: Welcome. For the next two months, a group of American strangers will be stranded ... here ... in "Canada" — a Grizzly-infested peninsula somewhere north of Minnesota. Let's meet our castaways. First — Jimmy, a retired military officer who's about to snap.

Jimmy: You'll all be sorry! The camera crews can't protect you forever!

Probst: Amanda, an exotic dancer known for her enormous wits.

Amanda: My cousin Mary lives here. Do you know her?

Probst: Agnes, a sweet old woman who will be eaten alive by the other contestants, perhaps literally.

Agnes: Let's all play fair.

Probst: And Vance, who inexplicably believes this show makes him a star.

Vance: Hey, America! How you doin'?

Probst: The contestants will be split into groups whose names reflect the local culture: Team Toque and Team Chesterfield. The first competition is a Great Canadian Challenge: Castaways must get their frostbite treated through Medicare. And go!

[The contestants stand in line for three months.]

Probst: Oooh, time's up. I'm afraid nobody wins immunity. And now let's watch as contestants have some introspective time alone with a camera crew and 13 million viewers.

Vance: Everything's good. If I lose, I can get my break in Canadian cinema. That exists, right?

Amanda: It's weird here. Canada's like a whole other country, you know?

Agnes: Everyone's been so nice. Even those squeegee kids who stole our things were very polite.

Jimmy: You took my gun! What kind of place is this?

Probst: It's time for Tribal Council! The results have been counted and, in true Canadian fashion, only one of you voted! Agnes is eliminated.

Agnes: I voted myself off. You all deserve it more.

Probst: Because this is Canada, the tribe must form a subcommittee that will report back on what went wrong for Agnes. Also, Agnes has the right to a lengthy appeals process. The tribe has spoken, Agnes. You can't win the appliances.

Vance: Appliances? What about the million dollars?

Probst: No, sorry, the prize is a lovely Whirlpool washer and dryer, making it the largest award ever on a Canadian game show! That's all for this week. Join us next time, when our castaways face their toughest challenge: One hour with Nickelback! Who will survive?

All: We quit.

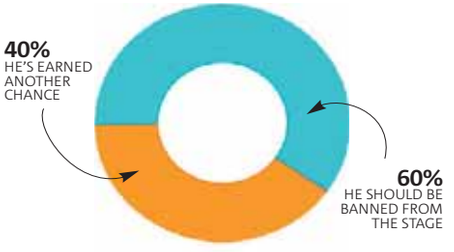
Probst: It's still better than Bumper Stumpers.

Read more of John Mazerolle's columns at metronews.ca/hesays

Metropolitan Panel

Register at metropolitanpanel.ca and take the quick poll

What do you think of Chris Brown performing at this year's Grammys



Local tweets

- **@WDeane:** as I listen to police on #c30 (lawful access) it sounds like #yyc police just don't like the hassle.
- **@Daddymakk:** With taxi drivers like this no wonder people drink-drive. Bumper hanging in traffic despite all the room #yyc #calgary
- **@NonaSchnell:** Does anyone else think the squirrels are plotting with the magpies to take over the city? #yyc
- **@LSison:** Not a good day to wear sweater boots #wetsocks #yyc
- **@QR77football:** Congratulation to Stamps Jon Cornish, named Booster Club Male Athlete of the Year #yyc #cfl #calstampeders
- **@1Kayley2Miller:** This week of hell needs to be over! cant wait to go home #yyc
- **@missmonsty:** gonna go drown my sorrows in sushi and saki at ki #yyc #bawse
- **@itsthis:** Gondolas in #yyc? Gondola alone sounds awesome.

ROBERT NEMETI / SOLENT

Daily Zoom

Egg-cellent armour

Tank built out of egg cartons

LONDON. It looked like shell warfare at England's Imperial War Museum after the unveiling of a "tank" made out of egg cartons. Sculptor Stuart Murdoch's carton-made mockup of a Challenger II vehicle was built to launch a national egg-and-spoon race organized by Eggs for Soldiers, a charity that raises money for injured soldiers. MWN

60 seconds

All those egg boxes. You must have made many omelettes.

Actually, the egg boxes arrived empty! We were sent over 8,000 egg boxes in the end. There were moments when we didn't want to see another egg box again.

How do egg boxes compare to real steel?

I was very surprised how sturdy they were. It wasn't a problem for me to stand on the structure. Its strength must be due to his conical shape inside.

What was the most difficult thing about making this tank?

Getting it through the door at London's Imperial War Museum. The door was too small, so we had to break it up into separate sections to get it in.

Will it stay there forever?

No. It's going outside on public display on March 4 for one day. After that, I have no idea what will happen to it. My dream is to see it retired at the Tank Museum in Dorset, southwest England.

What other curiosities have you made?

The world's largest cork — two metres high, 1.3 metres in diameter. Three tonnes of ground cork was sent from Portugal. MWN

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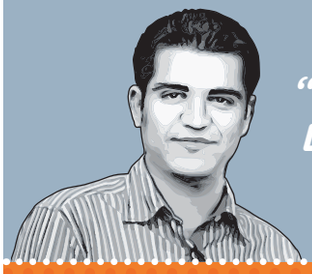

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2 scene

Brown

Country singer Miranda Lambert doesn't get why controversial R&B star Chris Brown was allowed to perform twice at the Grammys on Sunday. She tweeted on Monday: "He beat on a girl...not cool that we act like that didn't happen."
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cinephiles celebrate attention to film preservation in 'The Artist' and 'Hugo'

Fantastic flying festival

Art director for Fantastic Flying Books of Mr. Morris talks about working on film, Oscar nod

BACKSTAGE PASS

LISA WILTON
METRO CALGARY

Joe Bluhm knew he was part of something special when he first saw a rough cut of The Fantastic Flying Books of Mr. Morris Lessmore.

"I looked around and everyone was in tears," recalls Bluhm, the short film's art director, character designer and storyboard artist.

"That was the moment that I thought, 'Oh my gosh, what are we doing here?' I didn't anticipate it making me feel so emotional."

The poignant and charming 15-minute animated film also struck a chord with members of The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, who nominated it for an Oscar in the Best Animated Short Film category this year. (The same category in which Calgary filmmakers Amanda Forbis and Wendy Tilby are nominated for their excellent NFB short, Wild Life.)

Not only is the Oscar nod a great pay off for the hard work put in by Bluhm and the rest of Morris Lessmore's creative team, it also validates his decision to relocate from New York City to the somewhat less bustling metropolis of Shreveport, La.

"I came to Louisiana for what I thought was going to be three months," he says.

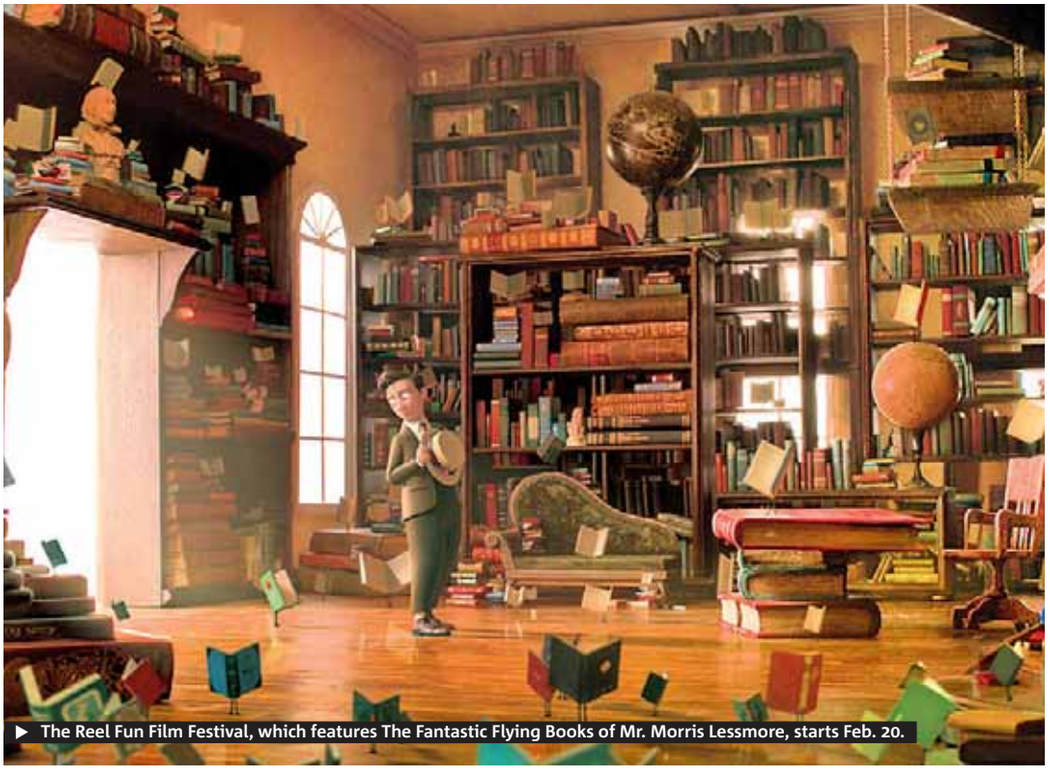
"After a month and a half of being here, I was begging them to hire me if they were going to put together a studio. Once I met (director William Joyce) I realized we were kindred spirits."

The Fantastic Flying Books of Mr. Morris Lessmore — which screens next week as part of the 2012 Reel Fun Film Festival — follows the doe-eyed, Buster Keaton-esque main character as he gets blown off his New Orleans balcony in a vicious storm and is transported to a whimsical world of words and music.

Bluhm says the film was partly inspired by Joyce's experiences visiting shelters after Hurricane Katrina.

"He saw how giving books to children and families took them out of the misery and the moment and brought colour and life back to them," he explains.

HANDOUT



▶ The Reel Fun Film Festival, which features The Fantastic Flying Books of Mr. Morris Lessmore, starts Feb. 20.

Details

Show details

- **Event** The Reel Fun Film Festival runs Feb. 20 – 26 at The Plaza Theatre, Cardel Theatre, Empire Theatres and Loose Moose Theatre.
- **Mission** The festival's mission is to expose children and youth to the world around them through films and filmmaking.
- **Tickets** For ticket, schedule and venue information, go to reelfunfilmfest.com or call 403-275-9373.

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On being bad

Johnny Whitworth talks about playing the villain and working with Nic Cage in the new Ghost Rider film

NED EHRBAR
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METRO WORLD NEWS IN HOLLYWOOD

When you see Johnny Whitworth, the first thing that may come to mind is Empire Records, in which he starred opposite Liv Tyler as the lovesick A.J. Eerily. The actor has barely aged over the past 17 years, but on screen in Ghost Rider: Spirit of Vengeance, he's almost unrecognizable as Blackout, a villainous light-manipulator who makes trouble for Nicolas Cage's flaming-skulled biker.

What can you tell us about how your character, Blackout, is portrayed in the movie without giving too much away?

He's got some cooler powers than in the comic. [In the comics], he was born basically a mutant, and when he went around everything turned black, and then he kind of identified with vampires and had these prosthetic fangs put in and claws, and then he was kind of an assassin kind of guy. In our thing, he actually can control what's going on with the light. It's much cooler. And he has powers that give him ... a unique quality and make him ... a good villain for the Ghost Rider.

Did you see the first Ghost Rider film?

I did... I've got to be careful how I use my words. I saw the first one. I think I was there opening day. I go to see all of them. I'm a total geek like that.

As a geek, were you a fan of the comics?

Yeah. I mean, he was definitely the coolest-looking hero, but I never followed that particular comic too much. My little brother did, and that was my introduction to it when we were younger.

How is it taking on a villain role?

It's fun. It's challenging just for the aesthetic reasons, and it's fun because villains are fun. Bad guys are more interesting, you know? You have no limitations, really.

And you go up against the Ghost Rider himself, Nicolas Cage. How was that?

HANDOUT

▶ Johnny Whitworth is barely recognizable as Blackout in Ghost Rider: Spirit of Vengeance.

It's a pleasure to work with Nic. There's not one particular thing I can elaborate on, you know? I think Nic's a great guy and an amazing craftsman. I dig his work. It's inspiring. What was cool was that I didn't understand anything that was going on in Romania, but we could be in a cab or a restaurant or whatever and we'd hear their language and then, "Nicolas Cage." The only thing I would understand was "Nicolas Cage" and then "ciorbă," which is soup.

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Will Bobby attend Whitney's funeral?

THE WORD

DOROTHY ROBINSON
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA

Whitney Houston's funeral will be held on Saturday at her childhood church, the New Hope Baptist Church in Newark, the church pastor said Tuesday night.

The invitation-only funeral will probably be attended by 1,500 or so people, with the public not invited.

But there's one person whose inclusion on the invite list is still up in the air: Houston's ex-husband, Bobby Brown.

Tmz.com reports that the singer is "extremely disappointed" after hearing that several members of Houston's family do not want him to attend Saturday's service.

Apparently, Houston's family isn't "fond of him" (um, understatement of the century, TMZ).

The site reports that Brown wants to go to support Bobbi Kristina, but hasn't "decided on a plan of action yet."

However, we do know Brown will be on the East Coast as he is scheduled to perform with his group New Edition on Saturday at the Mohegan Sun Arena. The Sun's publicist sent out a release yesterday saying that, as of then, Brown was still scheduled to perform.

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

▶ Bobby Brown and Whitney Houston

Celebrity tweets

@ladygaga

Been working like a crazy bitch all day. Need to smoke a joint or something; or maybe just a good punch in the face. PROPS PROPS PROPS.

@stephenfry

It's 6.50 am in Sydney. Got an hour or so to wait till the flight to Wellington and then I shall finally be in Hibbety-Hobbity land. Hurrah.

@kathygriffin

Should I have worn underwear???

@alecbaldwin

I want a Grammy. I just want it.

Brand 'back in the saddle'

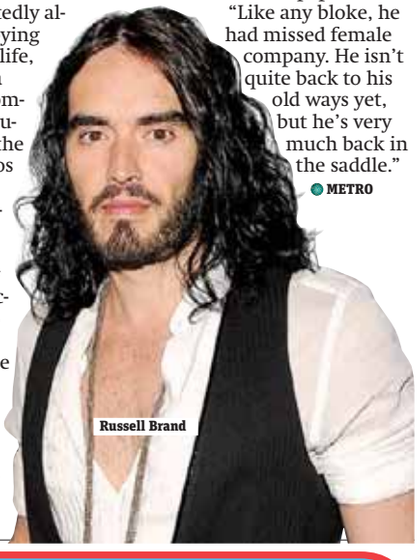
While Katy Perry unveiled a new angry breakup song at the Grammys over the weekend, soon-to-be ex-husband Russell Brand was reportedly already enjoying the single life, taking in a show at comedy and music venue the Largo in Los Angeles with an attractive young woman by his side, according to The Sun.

After the show, the two retired to his home, and Brand drove her home the next morning.

"Russell is a single man again and starting to move on from Katy," a source tells the newspaper.

"Like any bloke, he had missed female company. He isn't quite back to his old ways yet, but he's very much back in the saddle."

METRO



Russell Brand

Winslet doesn't want to see herself in 3D

Kate Winslet is bracing herself for the 3D re-release of Titanic 15 years after it originally came out.

The actress has already seen 17 minutes of footage, and it wasn't necessarily a pleasant experience.

"I was literally like, 'Oh my God, make it stop. Is that me? Oh my God, that's me. Block my ears, somebody. Somebody club out my senses. Make it f--- ing stop,'" Winslet tells USA Today. "I'm sure I wasn't really a very good actress. Seriously, we are talking about something that happened 15 years ago. It is a very long time ago."

Don't worry, Kate. We have a feeling everyone in the audience will have the exact same reaction.

METRO

▶ Kate Winslet

Brown brushes off his haters

Good work, America. Chris Brown is taking all of the negative attention people have showered on him since Sunday's Grammy Awards to heart and is now on a Twitter rampage about it. He tweeted last night: "HATE ALL U WANT BECUZ I GOT A GRAMMY Now! That's the ultimate F-CK OFF!" You know who else got a Grammy? Milli Vanilli. So don't put yourself in such high esteem there, buddy.

METRO

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3 life

Face first

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Most of us are told in our teens that outbreaks of blemished skin will cease once we've reached our 20s. But unfortunately for many people, blemishes and excess oil production persist beyond adolescence — and for some it doesn't flare up until adulthood.

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METRO

SKINCEUTICALS BLEMISH + AGE DEFENSE

Student designers from Montreal, Toronto and Halifax winners in Telio contest

- New York's biannual fashion week strikes a final pose today
- Check out five fabulous shows that had us anxious for next fall to arrive

New York runway roundup

KENYA HUNT & TINA CHADHA
LIFE@METRONEWS.CA
METRO WORLD NEWS IN LONDON

GETTY IMAGES

DONNA KARAN COLLECTION

Karan opened with her Casual Luxe collection, which, according to the press notes, was "tailored for the streets of New York" yet on the runway appeared to stem from Balmoral Scotland. These were heavily-layered cold-weather looks with cosy, chunky shearling outerwear: oversized tartan blanket knits and sweeping kilts. It was a strong, covetable collection.

GETTY IMAGES

JASON WU

For Wu, the process of transforming his soft and über-feminine muse into a proper badass force to be reckoned with meant going back to his Chinese roots, and exploring images of the country throughout history from the Qing dynasty to the Mao jacket. That translated into a series of beautifully-executed military coats and jackets loaded with rich Far East details and innovative construction.

GETTY IMAGES

RAG & BONE

As temperatures in New York dropped, Marcus Wainwright and David Neville's dense layering didn't seem like a bad idea. Who wouldn't want a chic and cosy blanket coat to toss over a trouser suit like this strong opening look? The only problem is that heavy layering can only go so far before it adds awkward lumps. Look for their perfectly cool separates and coats in stores, but maybe play with layers before imitating this runway styling.

GETTY IMAGES

MARC JACOBS

Marc Jacobs, New York's most prominent and influential architect of trends, showed a directional collection of multi-layered ensembles that made subtle nods to the Queen's land. From the first look out — a giant, furry Stephen Jones' hat and piled-on outfit that included a cape worn over a voluminous coat on top of a slick, tiled, opalescent, dress over cropped trousers and pilgrim shoes — the show had an air of madcap sobriety to it.

GETTY IMAGES

THAKOON

There was a polished sophistication to Thakoon Panichgul's clothes, best exemplified in the shift dresses and ruffled coats. But there were twists: a coatdress pinched at the waist seemed prim until the model turned the corner, where sexy black leather cut-outs in the back were revealed. The designer then kicked the feminine factor into high gear with sweet peacock feather embroidery and a palette of bright fuchsia and cranberry.

Jeanne Space

In this hectic modern world, Twitter has become a cool and succinct way of communicating. It allows me to be accessible, instantly speak my mind, and connects me with all kinds of people. Whether it's a fashion question or you just want to comment on life's bigger picture, I'd love to hear from you.

@Jeanne_Beker:

NYC here I come! And surprise - the lovely + talented @Joey-Oneil is coming along with me. Hope to grab some mom + daughter time on the job!

▶ Backastage as @CocoRocha gets her Geisha-style make-up applied by MAC's Kabuki for Zac Posen.

▶ J. Crew rocks! Lots of delightful pieces to mix + match...

▶ Betsey Johnson's better than ever at almost 70!!! Says she may be doing a reality show this fall..

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Infusing robust Moroccan flavours

- Turkey cutlets and vegetables are imbued with the tastes of the northern African country
- This warming winter dish is best served over steaming Israeli or traditional couscous

Ingredients:

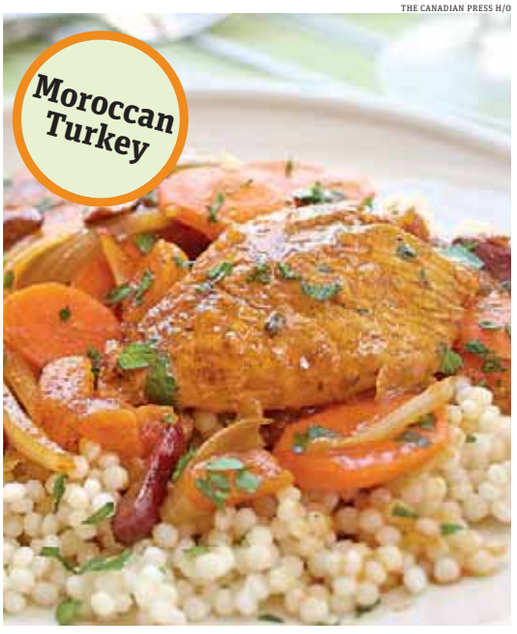
- 250 ml (1 cup) Israeli or traditional couscous
- 5 ml (1 tsp) paprika, divided
- 5 ml (1 tsp) ground cumin, divided
- 5 ml (1 tsp) each sea salt and fresh cracked pepper, divided
- 30 ml (2 tbsp) olive oil, divided
- 4 turkey cutlets
- 1 small onion, peeled and sliced
- 2 carrots, peeled and sliced
- 1/2 fennel bulb, sliced
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) chopped dried apricots
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) pitted olives, halved
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) orange juice
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) turkey or chicken broth
- 50 ml (1/4 cup) fresh chopped parsley

Preparation:

1. Cook couscous according to package directions.
2. In a resealable bag, combine turkey with 2 ml (1/2 tsp) each of the paprika, cumin, salt and pepper and half of the oil. Marinate for at least 30 minutes and up to 1 day.
3. In a large, non-stick skillet, heat remaining oil over medium-high heat. Brown turkey on both sides and transfer to a plate (it will not be cooked through).
4. Cook onion until tender, about 5 minutes. Stir in carrots, fennel and remaining paprika, cumin, salt and pepper and cook for 3 minutes. Sprinkle with apricots and olives, pour in orange juice and broth, scraping up any brown bits from the bottom of the pan. Nestle turkey into vegetables, reduce heat to medium-low to maintain a simmer, cover and cook until turkey is cooked through and vegetables are tender-crisp, about 15 minutes. Sprinkle with parsley and serve over couscous.

ONTARIO TURKEY/ THE CANADIAN PRESS

THE CANADIAN PRESS H/O



Weekly Cookbook

After spending the last decade and a half at his Michelin-starred San Francisco restaurant developing modern Moroccan cuisine, Mourad Lahlou takes his culinary talents to his book New Moroccan.

The book is anything but a dutifully authentic documentation of Moroccan home cooking. The 100-plus modern recipes are illustrated with food and location photography. Among them are: Lamb Shank with Spiced Prunes and Brown Butter Faro, Chickpea Spread, Grilled Flatbreads and more.

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A Stuffed-roasted lamb affair to remember

Ingredients:

- 45 ml (3 tbsp) canola oil
- 45 ml (3 tbsp) diced onion
- 1 ml (1/4 tsp) salt
- 6 ml (1 1/4) tsp black pepper
- 250 ml (1 cup) peeled, cored and diced apple
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) cider vinegar
- 1 trimmed boneless leg of lamb
- 30 ml (2 tbsp) roughly chopped fresh rosemary
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) thyme leaves
- 10 ml (2 tsp) coarse sea salt

Preparation:

1. In sauté pan heat 15 mL (1 tbsp) of oil over medium heat. Add onion, season with salt and 1 ml (1/4 tsp) of pepper and cook 4 mins. or until onion is soft and translucent. Add apple and cider vinegar; continue to cook 4 mins. or until apple is soft. Remove from heat; cool slightly.
2. Lay lamb flat on cutting board and make horizontal cut through centre of lamb and open two sides like a book. Place cooled apple mix inside and close two sides of lamb. Using butcher twine, gently tie lamb to enclose filling and ensure even cooking.
3. In bowl, combine rosemary, thyme, sea salt and remaining pepper and oil; stir to combine. Gently rub rosemary mix over surface of lamb.
4. Place stuffed lamb in lightly oiled roasting pan and roast in 190 C (375 F) oven basting occasionally with pan juices 40 to 50 mins. or until thermometer registers 70 C (160 F) for medium rare or desired doneness, remove pan from oven and let lamb rest 10 mins. before slicing. ONTARIO APPLE GROWERS, ONAPPLES.COM/ THE CANADIAN PRESS/ADAPTED BY EMILY RICHARDS, A PROFESSIONAL HOME ECONOMIST, COOKBOOK AUTHOR AND A TV CELEBRITY CHEF. FOR MORE, VISIT EMILYRICHARDSCOOKS.CA.

THE CANADIAN PRESS H/O

A bachelor pad on its way up

As our living space gets smaller, we need to get more creative with storage

BED BATH & BEYOND

▶ Under-counter storage

DESIGN CENTRE

KARL LOHNES
HOME@METRONEWS.CA

With condos getting smaller and our need for consumption ever-growing, it's time to look at displaying our stuff up and off the floors and tables. Freeing up the floor, counters and tabletops is the best way to make your space look more spacious and organized.

Listen up
Investing in wall-hung electronics keeps consoles clutter-free. Just remember to hide the cords. Flat-screen TVs, stereos and speakers are all available to be hung instead of taking up valuable console space. The BeoSound 8 from Bang & Olufsen ($1,200) can be wall-mounted and displays tablets and plays other sound devices.

Entertain it
Creating an entertainment centre doesn't mean adding another cabinet to the living room; simply mount everything under existing cupboards. Under cupboard racks and wall shelving keeps all bar accessories at hand. The 6-bottle Wine And Glass Rack from Bed Bath & Beyond ($40) keeps the well-stocked bar in view at all times.

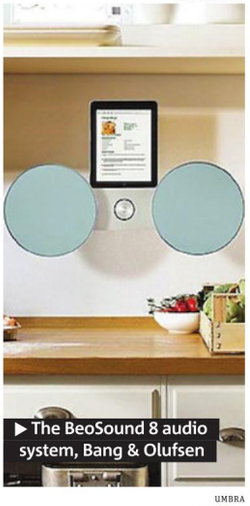
Hang it
Hooks keep everything off the floor. Put them everywhere: behind doors, inside the walls of closets and under the island bar; a great place to hang a purse or shopping bag.

The Flip Coat Rack from UMBRA ($30) has hooks that hinge down when in need and tuck away when not in use. No more sore shoulders on the way to the bathroom at night.

Give it a lift

- **Install a floating shelf** above each bedroom door and in upper closets.
- **Stack your towel bars on the wall;** bottom ones for bath towels and upper ones for hand towels.
- **Free up kitchen counter space** with under-cupboard coffee makers and toaster ovens.

BANG & OLUFSEN



▶ The BeoSound 8 audio system, Bang & Olufsen

UMBRA

▶ UMBRA's five-hook rack

WEST ELM

▶ Creatively display your collections with a variety of shelf options from West Elm.

Display it Don't let your collections just sit around — lift them up for display. Put interesting objects at eye level and in plain view. The Wall Hung Display Shelves from West Elm (starting at $20) allow you to be creative and show off all your special things.

DON'T GET BENT OUT OF SHAPE OVER HANGERS

CHARLES THE BUTLER

ASKCHARLESTHEBUTLER@METRONEWS.CA

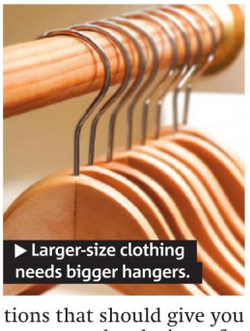
FOR MORE, VISIT CHARLESMACPHERSON.COM

Dear Charles the butler,
I am facing a really strange problem. My husband wears leather jackets in size XL. However, the jackets bought from Roots, Danier, etc. come with a hanger that seems to be too small for the XL jackets.

They leave at least two inches of shoulder hanging unsupported by the hanger. The jackets are getting out of shape really quickly. What should I do? Please help.
Thank you,
Trish

Dear Trish,
I have a couple of suggestions that should give you some good solutions for this problem.

ISTOCK



▶ Larger-size clothing needs bigger hangers.

Firstly, a strange but good temporary solution would be to cut some paper towel tubes lengthwise and place one on each side of the hanger where the coat hangs, thus elongating the hanger by a few inches to at least give the coat some stability and shape until a proper hanger can be found.

This may be hard to imagine, but the paper towel tube can be adjusted to the length you need and really does work on a short-term basis.

Secondly, look up a larger-size clothing store in your area and see if they will sell you a few oversized hangers that will properly fit the coats.

If that fails, Wm. Prager Ltd., sells hangers to the trade (and my butler school) so they have a very large inventory and are a great Canadian source.

And finally, the Rolls Royce solution is Henry Hanger in New York City. They manufacture any size hanger you could ever want or need and will even put your initials on the hanger should you so choose!

I know this last option is extreme, but I have used them for some of my very fancy clients and they are really good and will solve the problem.

HAVE A QUESTION? SEND A MESSAGE TO ASKCHARLESTHEBUTLER@METRONEWS.CA

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Pull off prints

Forget monastic minimalism — deck your home in zinging prints

DIY IDEAS

RICHARD PECKETT
LIFE@METRONEWS.CA
METRO WORLD NEWS IN LONDON

"Prints and patterns have been huge trends for the last few years and shows no sign of slowing down," says Tricia Guild, the founder and creative director of Designers Guild. "They offer a sense of modernity that plain textiles and walls just do not have."

Print wallpaper and upholstery may read like a throwback to a bygone age — I quiver at the thought of my grandparents' upholstery and strangely yellowed, bronze wallpaper. But today's prints are inspiringly vibrant and make for a room that you'd actually want to spend time in. As Guild puts it, "Prints lend themselves to a more eclectic look that reflects one's personality and spirit."

A harmonious clash

Nobody wants to create a home decor that is positively sick-making, so you need to "pick out a colour to link the clash — this way print clashes generally work," says Guild.

"In this blue sitting room, we've used more than eight patterns but the total effect is harmonious and full of character because the colour palette is restricted to a cobalt and white crispness," she says.

Print style guide

- Maintain a tight colour palette and include a neutral or white base
- Make sure there's some colour continuity running through your decor
- Show restraint when working with animal prints — you're not after a menagerie

Go easy on...

It's important to reel in your creative wild side, especially when it comes to decorating with animal prints and focus walls. Guild says: "Don't mix too many animal prints together and use a plain neutral, such as black, along the edges of curtains, cushions, rugs and lampshades."

On focus walls, she adds, "I think pattern all over the room is more up-to-date — the feature wall feels a bit passé in my view."

Prints to scale

You don't have to live in a sprawling urban palace to make prints work in your place. If you don't want prints to dominate, Guild suggests tempering the look by "choosing a wallpaper that is not too strong."

That means avoiding anything overtly in-your-face, and if you're sprucing up a smaller space, it'll be worth bearing this in mind: "Smaller-scale prints are best in tighter rooms, or just add accent print pieces like cushions or throws," says Guild. "However, there are no real rules and sometimes a large-scale pattern can look amazing."

CONTRIBUTED

▶ "Prints reflect personality," like these....

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▶ Or this.

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The healing power of plants

We all need nature to nurture our mental a physical health Utilitarian look is having its moment, but an expert explains why we should soften that steel-y image

RICHARD PECKETT
LIFE@METRONEWS.CA
METRO WORLD NEWS IN LONDON

CONTRIBUTED

"The positive response to trees is innate."

We've got some unfortunate news for those of you staring at a ceaseless urban sprawl of concrete, steel and glass with the only manifestation of nature being a safari travel poster:

"We experience less stress when plants are around us and research shows that our mental functioning is much better," says Virginia Lohr, professor of horticulture and landscape architecture at Washington State University.

Although modern cities make day-to-day living more convenient, it's not in keeping with our basic human needs. "We evolved with plants and we have a preprogrammed, innate response to them because of their survival value — the same is true of the sun, clouds and oceans," explains Lohr.

So while we strip away swathes of green land in the name of progress, we could in fact not only be harming the environment but also our own well-being. It's a harmful effect that's carried into the home and workplace with city dwellers spending more time than ever working under florescent lights, heating and air conditioning.

"The more plants you can have around you the better. They help humanize."

VIRGINIA LOHR, PROFESSOR OF HORTICULTURE AND LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

"Interiors, especially in the winter time when the heating is on, cause colds, sore throats, headaches and the spread of airborne viruses," says Lohr.

Any plant can have a so-called effect on our mood; however species such as "the peace lily or Chinese evergreen grow well under low light, which can help reduce dust and air pollutants, as suggested by research," she continues.

The other great menace to health in modern environments is air humidity. In layman's terms, "any plant that needs to be watered more will put a greater level of water in the air. So for example a fern is going to better than a cactus for humidifying the air," adds Lohr.

It's certainly something to consider if you're falling ill to niggly coughs and colds. At the most base level the expert says, "The more plants you can have around you the better. They help humanize the environment, make us calmer and reduce violence," and that's no bad thing in our increasingly chaotic, 24-7 cities.

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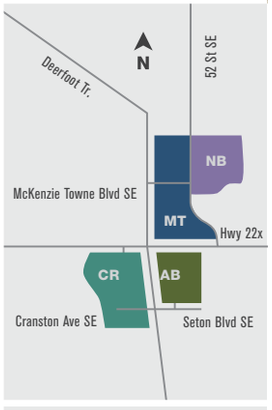

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Comeau has plenty to prove down stretch

MIKE RIDEWOOD/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Flames forward Blake Comeau can't get the puck past Toronto's Jonas Gustavsson on Tuesday night.

THE HOCKEY NEWS

BRIAN COSTELLO
CALGARY@METRONEWS.CA

With five forwards out of the Calgary lineup nursing injuries, the time is now for Blake Comeau to put up or shut up.

Coming off a 24-goal season with the Islanders, Comeau has been a disappointment, scoring just four goals in 53 games. The first 16 games were in a reduced ice time capacity on Long Island. But in 37 games with the Flames, Comeau has been averaging north of 16 minutes, mostly on the second line, and producing at a nine-goal pace.

That's fine if you're a Tom Kostopoulos-style fourth-line grinder and you're making less than a million dollars and serving a vital role checking and wearing down the opposition. But Comeau is here to use his speed and create offence. Before scoring his fourth goal Tuesday, he had just one goal in 21 games. Nothing wrong with the way Comeau circles the wagons with the puck on his stick, except it rarely results in a shot on goal.

The Flames plucked Comeau off the waiver wire because they thought his point-less start with the Islanders was an aberration. But now we're left to wonder if his 24-goal campaign was the oddity. The bust-out season resulted in Comeau getting a raise from $800,000 to $2.5 million US.

The interesting aspect of Comeau's salary is he's a pending restricted free agent. But unless he has a terrific finish, Comeau is effectively an unrestricted free agent.

The Flames have three options with him:

1. Qualify him at $2.5 million (he's not nearly worth that much now). 2. Take him to arbitration with a pay cut, the maximum of which is 15 percent (the resulting $2.125 million is still way too much). 3. Don't qualify him and he becomes a UFA.

If the Flames are interested in keeping him, a practical solution would be to tell him he won't be getting a qualifying offer and that he should take $1 to $1.25 million or they will cut him loose. Comeau then has to decide whether to take the offer or risk getting less as a UFA.

It has been said Comeau is the victim of bad luck. His shooting percentage is 4.3 per cent, which ranks 270th out of 282 NHL forwards. In his previous two years with the Islanders it was 12.8 and 13.2 per cent. Maybe all he needs to do is shoot more and the law of averages will eventually go his way. He has about 25 games to make that happen.

Flames preview

Calgary at Dallas
6:30 p.m.
TV: TSN

The Flames (27-22-8) travel to Dallas (28-25-3), which has won two of its last seven games. The Stars lost 3-1 in Detroit on Tuesday. Kari Lehtonen made 34 saves in the loss and has a 2.38 goals-against average and .917 save percentage through seven starts in February. After going five games without a point, Loui Eriksson has a goal and three assists in his last three games. Brenden Morrow (upper-body) is on injured reserve and Sheldon Souray (foot) is day-to-day.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

GLENN CRATTY/ALLSPORT FILE

▶ Al MacInnis with the Flames in 1993.

Flames to give No. 2 a home in Saddledome

Al MacInnis is set to be honoured with a banner in the rafters at the Saddledome.

The Calgary Flames announced Wednesday that the former defenceman will be feted on Feb. 27 prior to a game against the St. Louis Blues. He'll be the first player honoured under the new "Forever a Flame" program, which will see the sweater numbers of former Flames kept in circulation with the current team.

"I am truly honoured to receive this recognition as a member of the Flames family and to have my name and number recognized by one of the finest hockey teams I have ever had the pleasure to compete on," MacInnis said in a release.

A first-round pick of the Flames in 1981, MacInnis would go on to be named an all-star eight times in 13 seasons with the team. He also took home the Conn Smythe Trophy as playoff MVP when the Flames won the Stanley Cup in 1989.

He went on to spend the final decade of his NHL career with the Blues and had his No. 2 retired by that franchise in 2006.

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NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	OTL	SL	GF	GA	Pts	Home	Away	Last 10	Strk
d-NY Rangers	55	37	13	1	4	156	110	79	18-6-0-2	19-7-1-2	8-1-0-1	W4
d-Boston	55	35	18	1	1	188	126	72	18-10-1-1	17-8-0-0	5-5-0-0	W1
d-Florida	56	27	18	5	6	143	158	65	14-6-1-6	13-12-4-0	6-3-0-1	L1
Philadelphia	56	31	18	2	5	182	169	69	13-9-1-4	18-9-1-1	3-4-0-3	L2
Pittsburgh	57	32	20	2	3	176	150	69	17-8-2-0	15-12-0-3	6-3-0-1	L1
New Jersey	56	32	20	1	3	158	156	68	15-10-0-3	17-10-1-0	6-2-0-2	W1
Ottawa	60	30	22	6	2	179	183	68	15-11-2-1	15-11-4-1	3-5-2-0	W2
Toronto	57	28	23	3	3	172	171	62	16-9-2-2	12-14-1-1	5-4-0-1	L4
Washington	56	28	23	2	3	156	160	61	19-8-0-2	9-15-2-1	3-4-2-1	L3
Winnipeg	58	26	26	3	3	140	164	58	16-9-0-2	10-17-3-1	4-6-0-0	L2
NY Islanders	56	24	24	5	3	134	160	56	12-13-5-0	12-11-1-2	5-3-1-1	W1
Montreal	58	23	25	2	8	155	158	56	11-12-2-6	12-13-0-2	5-4-0-1	L2
Tampa Bay	56	24	26	3	3	155	189	54	15-9-1-1	9-17-2-2	5-3-2-0	L2
Buffalo	56	24	26	3	3	137	162	54	13-11-3-3	11-15-0-0	5-4-0-1	L2
Carolina	57	21	25	7	4	147	175	53	14-12-0-3	7-13-7-1	5-1-3-1	W1

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	OTL	SL	GF	GA	Pts	Home	Away	Last 10	Strk
d-Detroit	58	39	17	1	1	185	136	80	24-2-1-0	15-15-0-1	7-2-0-1	W4
d-Vancouver	57	36	15	0	6	183	140	78	17-6-0-4	19-9-0-2	7-0-0-3	W2
d-San Jose	54	31	17	3	3	158	130	68	18-9-2-0	13-8-1-3	5-4-0-1	W1
St. Louis	56	34	15	1	6	140	113	75	24-3-1-3	10-12-0-3	6-3-0-1	L1
Nashville	57	33	18	3	3	161	150	72	18-7-2-2	15-11-1-1	6-2-0-2	W1
Chicago	57	29	21	4	3	176	174	65	19-6-1-3	10-15-3-0	1-8-1-0	L9
Los Angeles	57	27	19	5	6	124	124	65	15-11-0-4	12-8-5-2	4-4-1-1	W1
Phoenix	57	27	21	3	6	149	146	63	14-10-2-2	13-11-1-4	6-2-0-2	L1
Calgary	57	27	22	4	4	139	152	62	16-8-1-1	11-14-3-3	6-2-1-1	W2
Colorado	58	28	26	3	1	147	162	60	16-13-0-1	12-13-3-0	4-4-1-1	L2
Dallas	56	28	25	0	3	146	160	59	15-11-0-2	13-14-0-1	4-5-0-1	L3
Minnesota	56	25	23	2	6	126	146	58	13-10-1-2	12-13-1-4	3-6-0-1	L5
Anaheim	57	24	24	4	5	148	165	57	15-13-2-0	9-11-2-5	6-2-1-1	W3
Edmonton	55	22	28	1	4	147	165	49	15-8-1-2	7-20-0-2	5-4-0-1	W1
Columbus	57	17	34	1	5	133	186	40	10-15-1-2	7-19-0-3	4-6-0-0	W1

d — division leaders ranked 1-2-3 regardless of points; a team winning in overtime or shootout is credited with two points and a victory in the W column; the team losing in overtime or shootout receives one point which is registered in the OTL (overtime loss) or SL (shootout loss) column.

Last night's results
Ottawa 6 Florida 2
Vancouver 3 Colorado 1
Boston 4 Montreal 3 (SO)
Anaheim 2 Pittsburgh 1
Toronto at Edmonton

Tuesday's results
Calgary 5 Toronto 1
Ottawa 4 Tampa Bay 0
N.Y. Islanders 3 Winnipeg 1
Anaheim 2 Minnesota 1
Columbus 2 St. Louis 1
Detroit 3 Dallas 1
Nashville 3 Chicago 2
New Jersey 4 Buffalo 1
N.Y. Rangers 3 Boston 0

Tonight's games — All Times Eastern
Chicago at N.Y. Rangers, 7 p.m.
Buffalo at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.
San Jose at Tampa Bay, 7:30 p.m.
N.Y. Islanders at St. Louis, 8 p.m.
Winnipeg at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
Calgary at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.
Phoenix at Los Angeles, 10:30 p.m.

Tomorrow's games
Anaheim at New Jersey, 7 p.m.
San Jose at Carolina, 7 p.m.
Montreal at Buffalo, 7:30 p.m.
Washington at Florida, 7:30 p.m.
Nashville at Detroit, 7:30 p.m.
Boston at Winnipeg, 8:30 p.m.
Colorado at Edmonton, 9:30 p.m.

BRUINS 4, CANADIENS 3 (SO)

First Period
1. Boston, Ference 5 (Marchand) 17:09
Penalties — Seidenberg Bos (cross-checking) 9:11, McQuaid Bos, White Mtl (fighting) 14:15, Seidenberg Bos (tripping) 15:16, Pacioretty Mtl (goaltender interference) 15:43, Eller Mtl (double high-sticking) 17:59.
Second Period
2. Montreal, Darche 5 (Subban) 1:39 (sh)
3. Boston, Pouliot 9 (Kelly, Peverley) 5:07
4. Boston, Bergeron 17 (Seguin, Chara) 14:33 (pp)
Penalties — Kostitsyn Mtl (interference) 5:27, Paille Bos (goaltender interference), Leblanc Mtl (goaltender interference), Cole Mtl (goaltender interference) 12:39, Marchand Bos (tripping) 20:00.
Third Period
5. Montreal Pacioretty 24 (Desharnais, Cole) 3:34
6. Montreal, Cole 22, 11:12
Penalties — Boychuk Bos (interference) 5:00, Plekanec Mtl (delay of game) 18:37.
Overtime — No Scoring.
Penalties — None.
Shootout — Boston wins 1-0
Montreal (0) — Bourque, miss; Pacioretty, miss; Eller, miss; **Boston (1)** — Krejci, miss; Seguin, goal.
Shots on goal by

Boston	12	12	2	7—34
Montreal	5	11	10	3—29

Goal — Boston: Thomas (W,24-11-0); Montreal: Price (L,21-20-9). **Power plays (goals-chances)** — Boston: 1-6; Montreal: 0-4.
Attendance — 21,273 (21,273) at Montreal.

SENATORS 6, PANTHERS 2

First Period
1. Ottawa, O'Brien 1 (Foligno, Lee) 5:35
2. Florida, Matthias 10 (Weaver) 11:47
Penalty — Kuba Ott (tripping) 15:31.
Second Period
3. Ottawa, Daugavins 4 (Lee, Condra) 5:18
4. Ottawa, Butler 6 (Michalek, Spezza) 7:24
5. Ottawa, Alfredsson 20 (Daugavins) 14:06 (sh)
Penalties — Smith Ott, Bradley Fla (fighting) 8:14, Phillips Ott (interference) 11:41, Gonchar Ott (high-sticking) 13:30, Weiss Fla (slashing) 17:00.
Third Period
6. Ottawa, Michalek 25 (Karlsson, Spezza) 1:24
7. Florida, Bergenheim 12 (Campbell, Fleischmann) 4:25 (pp)
8. Ottawa, Kuba 5 (Spezza, Alfredsson) 14:54 (pp)
Penalties — Alfredsson Ott (delay of game) 2:58, Greening Ott (slashing) 10:51, Florida bench (too many men; served by Skille) 13:54, Smith Ott, Strachan Fla (fighting), Skille Fla (roughing) 15:31, Florida bench (abusive language; served by Bradley) 16:36.
Shots on goal by

Ottawa	9	10	12	— 31
Florida	14	17	13	— 44

Goal (shots-saves) — Ottawa: Anderson (W,27-19-6); Florida: Clemmensen (L,10-5-5) (16-12), Theodore (14:06 second)(15-13).
Power plays (goals-chances) — Ottawa: 1-4; Florida: 1-5.
Attendance — 14,038 (17,040) at Sunrise, Fla.

SCORING LEADERS

	G	A	PT
Malkin, Pgh	32	37	69
Stamkos, TB	37	25	62
Giroux, Pha	22	40	62
Kessel, Tor	30	31	61
Spezza, Ott	25	35	60
Lupul, Tor	22	37	59
H.Sedin, Vcr	12	46	58
Datsyuk, Det	15	42	57
Kovalchuk, NJ	25	31	56
Neal, Pgh	29	26	55
D.Sedin, Vcr	24	31	55
Tavares, NYI	22	33	55
Eberle, Edm	24	30	54
Hossa, Chi	21	33	54
Elias, NJ	19	35	54
Pominville, Buf	21	32	53
Toews, Chi	27	25	52
Karlsson, Ott	10	42	52
Selanne, Ana	18	33	51
Ra.Whitney, Phx	16	35	51
Parenteau, NYI	12	39	51
Hartnell, Pha	26	24	50
Kopitar, LA	17	33	50
St. Louis, TB	16	34	50
Thornton, SJ	12	38	50
Gaborik, NYR	27	22	49
Moulson, NYI	25	24	49
Parise, NJ	21	28	49
Benn, Dal	17	32	49

Not including last night's games

LACROSSE

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EAST DIVISION

	GP	W	L	Pct.	GF	GA	GB
Toronto	5	3	2	.600	61	56	—
Philadelphia	5	3	2	.600	55	69	—
Rochester	6	2	4	.333	75	74	1½
Buffalo	6	2	4	.333	70	76	1½

WEST DIVISION

	GP	W	L	Pct.	GF	GA	GB
Colorado	5	5	0	1.000	71	56	—
Minnesota	5	3	2	.600	66	62	2
Calgary	5	3	2	.600	62	57	2
Edmonton	4	1	3	.250	44	39	3½
Washington	5	1	4	.200	46	61	4

WEEK SEVEN
Saturday's games — All Times Eastern
Philadelphia at Toronto, 7 p.m.
Washington at Rochester, 7:30 p.m.
Colorado at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
Edmonton at Calgary, 9 p.m.

TENNIS

ATP ABN AMRO WORLD TOURNAMENT

At Rotterdam, Netherlands
Singles — First Round
Roger Federer (1), Switzerland, def. Nicolas Mahut, France, 6-4, 6-4.
Tomas Berdych (2), Czech Republic, def. Lukas Rosol, Czech Republic, 6-4, 6-2.
Juan Martin del Potro (3), Argentina, def. Micahel Llodra, France, 6-4, 6-7 (3), 6-4.
Marcos Baghdatis, Cyprus, def. Matthias Bachinger, Germany, 7-6 (2), 6-2.
Alex Bogomolov, Jr., Russia, def. Sergiy Stakhovsky, Ukraine, 6-3, 0-1 (retired).
Karol Beck, Slovakia, def. Philipp Petzschner, Germany, 7-6 (6), 6-3.
Second Round
Jarkko Nieminen, Finland, def. Lukasz Kubot, Poland, 6-3, 5-7, 7-6 (2).
Nikolay Davydenko, Russia, def. Paul-Henri Mathieu, France, 6-4, 6-7 (7), 6-1.
Doubles — First Round
Marcel Granollers and Marc Lopez, Spain, def. Max Mirnyi, Belarus, and **Daniel Nestor (1), Toronto**, 7-6 (5), 7-5.
Robert Lindstedt, Sweden, and Horia Tecau (3), Romania, def. Oliver Marach and Alexander Peya, Austria, 6-1, 7-5.

WTA COPA BBVA COLSANITAS

At Bogota, Colombia
Singles — First Round
Marina Erakovic (1), New Zealand, def. Stefanie Voegele, Switzerland, 6-3, 6-4.
Paula Ormaechea, Argentina, def. Jelena Dokic (4), Australia, 4-6, 6-3, 6-4.
Second Round
Timea Babos, Hungary, def. Romina Oprandi (3), Switzerland, 7-6 (5), 6-4.
Mariana Duque-Marino, Colombia, def. Lourdes Dominguez Lino (7), Spain, 4-6, 6-2, 7-5.
Lara Arruabarrena-Vecino, Spain, def. Eva Birnerova, Czech Republic, 6-4, 6-0.
Yaroslava Shvedova, Kazakhstan, def. Valeria Savinykh, Russia, 6-2, 6-2.
Doubles — First Round
Eva Birnerova, Czech Republic, and Alexandra Panova (1), Russia, def. Karen Castiblanco, Colombia, and Paula Ormaechea, Argentina, 6-2, 6-0.
Timea Babos, Hungary, and Valeria Savinykh, Russia, def. Maria Abramovic, Croatia, and **Marie-Eve Pelletier (4), Repentigny, Que.**, 1-6, 6-3, 10-3 (tiebreak).

WTA QATAR TOTAL OPEN

At Doha, Qatar
Singles — Second Round
Victoria Azarenka (1), Belarus, def. Mona Barthel, Germany, 6-1, 6-0.
Lucie Safarova, Czech Republic, def. Caroline Wozniacki (2), Denmark, 4-6, 6-4, 7-6 (3).
Sam Stosur (3), Australia, def. Sorana Cirstea, Romania, 6-4, 7-6 (5).
Agnieszka Radwanska (4), Poland, def. Anne Keothavong, Britain, 6-1, 6-2.
Marion Bartoli (5), France, def. Anabel Medina Garrigues, Spain, 6-2, 6-0.
Monica Niculescu, Romania, def. Vera Zvonareva (6), Russia, 7-5, 3-2 (retired).
Yanina Wickmayer, Belgium, def. Francesca Schiavone (7), Italy, 7-6 (4), 6-4.
Shahar Peer, Israel, def. Jelena Jankovic (8), Serbia, 7-6 (3), 6-2.
Christina McHale, U.S., def. Peng Shuai (12), China, 5-7, 6-3, 6-2.
Petra Cetkovska, Czech Republic, def. Ana Ivanovic (13), Serbia, 6-4, 6-4.
Svetlana Kuznetsova (14), Russia, def. Maria Kirilenko, Russia, 6-4, 6-4.
Varvara Lepchenko, U.S., def. Julia Goerges (16), Germany, 7-6 (4), 7-6 (5).

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
d-Chicago	24	7	.774	—
d-Miami	23	7	.767	½
d-Philadelphia	20	10	.667	3½
Atlanta	19	11	.633	4½
Orlando	19	11	.633	4½
Indiana	17	12	.586	6
Boston	15	13	.536	7½
New York	15	15	.500	8½
Milwaukee	12	17	.414	11
Cleveland	11	16	.407	11
Detroit	9	22	.290	15
Toronto	9	22	.290	15
New Jersey	8	22	.267	15½
Washington	7	22	.241	16
Charlotte	3	26	.103	20

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
d-Oklahoma City	22	7	.759	—
d-San Antonio	21	9	.700	1½
d-L.A. Clippers	17	9	.654	3½
Dallas	19	11	.633	3½
L.A. Lakers	17	12	.586	5
Houston	17	13	.567	5½
Denver	17	13	.567	5½
Memphis	16	14	.533	6½
Portland	15	14	.517	7
Utah	14	14	.500	7½
Minnesota	14	16	.467	8½
Golden State	11	14	.440	9
Phoenix	12	18	.400	10½
Sacramento	10	19	.345	12
New Orleans	6	23	.207	16

d — division leaders ranked in top four positions regardless of record.

Last night's results
San Antonio 113 Toronto 106
Atlanta 101 Phoenix 99
Cleveland 98 Indiana 87
Dallas 102 Denver 84
Detroit 98 Boston 88
Houston 96 Oklahoma City 95
Memphis 105 New Jersey 100
Minnesota 102 Charlotte 90
New Orleans 92 Milwaukee 89
New York 100 Sacramento 85
Orlando 103 Philadelphia 87
Portland at Golden State
Washington at L.A. Clippers

Tuesday's results
New York 90 Toronto 87
Chicago 121 Sacramento 115
Denver 109 Phoenix 92
L.A. Lakers 86 Atlanta 78
Memphis 93 Houston 83
Miami 105 Indiana 90
Oklahoma City 111 Utah 85
San Antonio 99 Detroit 95
Washington 124 Portland 109

Tonight's games — All Times Eastern
New Jersey at Indiana, 7 p.m.
Boston at Chicago, 8 p.m.
L.A. Clippers at Portland, 10:30 p.m.

Tomorrow's games
Charlotte at Toronto, 7 p.m.
Milwaukee at Orlando, 7 p.m.
Miami at Cleveland, 7:30 p.m.
Sacramento at Detroit, 7:30 p.m.
Minnesota at Houston, 8 p.m.
Golden State at Oklahoma City, 8 p.m.
Denver at Memphis, 8 p.m.
New Orleans at New York, 8 p.m.
Dallas at Philadelphia, 8 p.m.
Washington at Utah, 9 p.m.
Phoenix at L.A. Lakers, 10:30 p.m.

SPURS 113, RAPTORS 106

SAN ANTONIO (113)
Jefferson 4-6 0-0 10, Duncan 3-8 2-2 8, Blair 3-7 0-0 6, Parker 11-23 12-12 34, Green 4-7 2-2 13, Splitter 6-8 1-2 13, Ginobili 3-4 4-5 11, Neal 3-5 2-2 8, Bonner 4-6 0-0 10, Leonard 0-1 0-0 0, Joseph 0-1 0-0 0. Totals 41-76 23-25 113.
TORONTO (106)
J.Johnson 3-8 0-0 6, A.Johnson 5-5 0-0 10, Gray 0-0 0-2 0, Calderon 8-14 0-1 16, DeRozan 13-21 2-2 29, Barbosa 3-9 0-0 7, Carter 3-5 3-4 10, Davis 5-6 1-1 11, Butler 5-10 0-0 10, Forbes 2-8 2-2 6, Magloire 0-0 1-2 1. Totals 47-86 9-14 106.

San Antonio	25	30	28	30—113
Toronto	17	28	33	28—106

3-Point Goals—San Antonio 8-19 (Green 3-6, Bonner 2-2, Jefferson 2-4, Ginobili 1-2, Parker 0-1, Joseph 0-1, Leonard 0-1, Neal 0-2), Toronto 3-11 (DeRozan 1-1, Carter 1-2, Barbosa 1-3, Forbes 0-2, Butler 0-3). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—San Antonio 42 (Green 7), Toronto 39 (A.Johnson 7). Assists—San Antonio 23 (Parker 14), Toronto 29 (Calderon 11). Total Fouls—San Antonio 11, Toronto 26. A—15,999 (19,800) at Toronto.

SOCCER

UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

SECOND ROUND
FIRST LEG
Yesterday's results
AC Milan (Italy) 4 Arsenal (England) 0
Zenit St. Petersburg (Russia) 3 Benfica (Portugal) 2

EUROPA LEAGUE

SECOND ROUND
FIRST LEG
Tuesday's results
Braga (Portugal) 0 Besiktas (Turkey) 2
Rubin Kazan (Russia) 0, Olympiakos (Greece) 1
Today's games — All Times Eastern
Locomotiv Moscow (Russia) vs. Athletic Bilbao (Spain), Noon
AZ Alkmaar (Netherlands) vs. Anderlecht (Belgium), 1 p.m.
Ajax (Netherlands) vs. Manchester United (England), 1 p.m.
Lazio (Italy) vs. Atletico Madrid (Spain), 1 p.m.
Legia Warsaw (Poland) vs. Sporting Lisbon (Portugal), 1 p.m.
Salzburg (Austria) vs. Metalist Kharkiv (Ukraine), 1 p.m.
Viktoria Plzen (Czech Republic) vs. Schalke (Germany), 1 p.m.
Hannover (Germany) vs. Brugge (Belgium), 3:05 p.m.
Porto (Portugal) vs. Manchester City (England), 3:05 p.m.
Steaua Bucharest (Romania) vs. Twente (Netherlands), 3:05 p.m.
Stoke (England) vs. Valencia (Spain), 3:05 p.m.
Trabzonspor (Turkey) vs. PSV Eindhoven (Netherlands), 3:05 p.m.
Udinese (Italy) vs. PAOK Thessaloniki (Greece), 3:05 p.m.
Wisla Krakow (Poland) vs. Standard Liege (Belgium), 3:05 p.m.

FRANCE

COUPE DE FRANCE
ROUND OF 16
Yesterday's results
Dijon 0 Paris Saint-Germain 1
Marseille 3 Bourg-Peronnas 1

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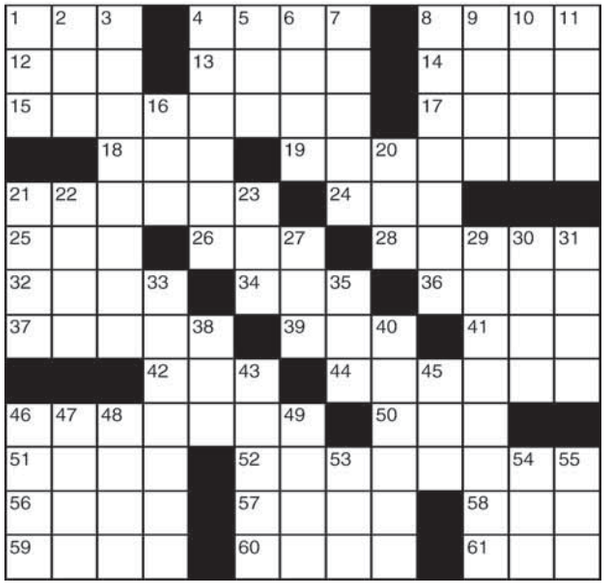
AVI urban

Crossword



Across

1 Burst
4 Answer an invite
8 Mid-June honorees
12 George's brother
13 — out (supplements)
14 Out of the storm
15 Unimprovable place
17 "— do for now"
18 Back
19 Great commotion
21 "America's Got —"
24 First st.
25 Wall climber
26 Listener
28 Distance down
32 Nap
34 Crazy
36 Avis adjective
37 Basin accessories
39 Pie filling?
41 Deteriorate
42 Last (Abbr.)
44 Political argument
46 Colored like hippie shirts
50 Website section, often
51 Opposed to
52 South American country
56 Old card game
57 Thing
58 Heady brew
59 "South Park" kid
60 Knighted woman
61 Playing marble

Down

1 Spot on a domino
2 "... man — mouse?"
3 Render immobile
4 Given a makeover
5 Tackle moguls
6 Two-piece suit's lack
7 Intellectual pretender
8 Company that merged with Benz in 1926
9 Choir member
10 Sandwich shop
11 Vend
16 Census stat
20 Roulette bet
21 Ocean motion
22 Acknowledge
23 Highlander's hat
27 Aries
29 Strong herbicide
30 Jog
31 Loathe
33 Scholarly
35 Flop
38 Crafty
40 Malign
43 Lukewarm
45 Satchel
46 Chore
47 Black
48 List-ending abbr.
49 Information
53 Sleep phenom
54 Carte lead-in
55 Evergreen type

▶ Yesterday's answer

Sudoku

			6	9		8	7	4
				1			6	2
		2				3		
9			7				4	
		4				6		
	3				4			1
		8				2		
3	4			6				
2	7	5		3	1			

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's answer ▶

4	5	2	3	9	6	1	8	7
3	1	7	8	2	4	5	9	6
6	9	8	1	5	7	2	4	3
7	2	3	5	1	8	4	6	9
9	8	6	4	7	2	3	1	5
1	4	5	9	6	3	7	2	8
2	3	1	7	8	9	6	5	4
8	6	4	2	3	5	9	7	1
5	7	9	6	4	1	8	3	2

Send a KISS

You can now post your kiss, and read even more kisses, at metronews.ca/kiss.

To the love of my life
On this day, I simply want to say you mean everything to me.... and I have been thinking of you every single moment of every hour of the day. **SANAM**

Brian
You have made today very special for me.. I cannot wait to have many more.. I will love you forever and always. **YOUR PRINCESS**

Honey
You fill me up with inspiration, passion, adornment, love and faith. You give me a reason to hope, dream, and accomplish. Setting goals with each other and watching them come to life is absolutely amazing. You fulfill all my hearts desires and all my lifes wonders. I am content and could ask for nothing more. Happy valentines day to you!!!! The one and only love of my life. **RYAN**

A look at the weather

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Min -9° Max 1°	Min -3° Max 6°	Min -8° Max 2°

Andrew Schultz, Meteorologist
"I get to spread the word on how your day, evening or weekend will shape up with our ever-changing weather here in Alberta". **WEEKDAYS 5:30AM**

BT BREAKFAST TELEVISION

Today's horoscope

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, visit metronews.ca

♈ Aries March 21-April 20
You want to take a risk but you are also fearful of making a mistake. If you play safe now, you will surely regret it later on.

♉ Taurus April 21-May 21
Even if those you love think that what you are doing is wrong, they will still help you to do it today.

♊ Gemini May 22-June 21
The bigger the challenge, the more you will like it today. Even rivals will admire the way you push through against the odds.

♋ Cancer June 22-July 22 Others may say you are expecting too much of yourself but you know you have been expecting too little.

♌ Leo July 23-Aug.23
If the old way of doing things no longer seems to work, by all means try something new.

♍ Virgo Aug. 24- Sept. 22
This is the perfect time to do something others will be talking about (for good reasons) for years.

♎ Libra Sept. 23-Oct. 23
You will do something that does not come naturally. You may discover you have a talent of which you were previously unaware.

♏ Scorpio Oct. 24-Nov. 22
Follow your instincts wherever they might lead you and don't worry that some people might think you are mad.

♐ Sagittarius Nov. 23-Dec. 21 You will have to work hard for other people today and you won't have much time for yourself.

♑ Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 20
Some things you say over the next 24 hours could have those around you squirming. The truth is the truth and you won't twist it.

♒ Aquarius Jan. 21-Feb. 18
Sometimes in life you have to bend the truth a little and that seems to be the case today.

♓ Pisces Feb. 19-March 20 Mercury in your sign linked to expansive Jupiter means you are in excellent form intellectually at the moment. **SALLY BROMPTON**

Caption contest

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